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MODERN EXPLORERS

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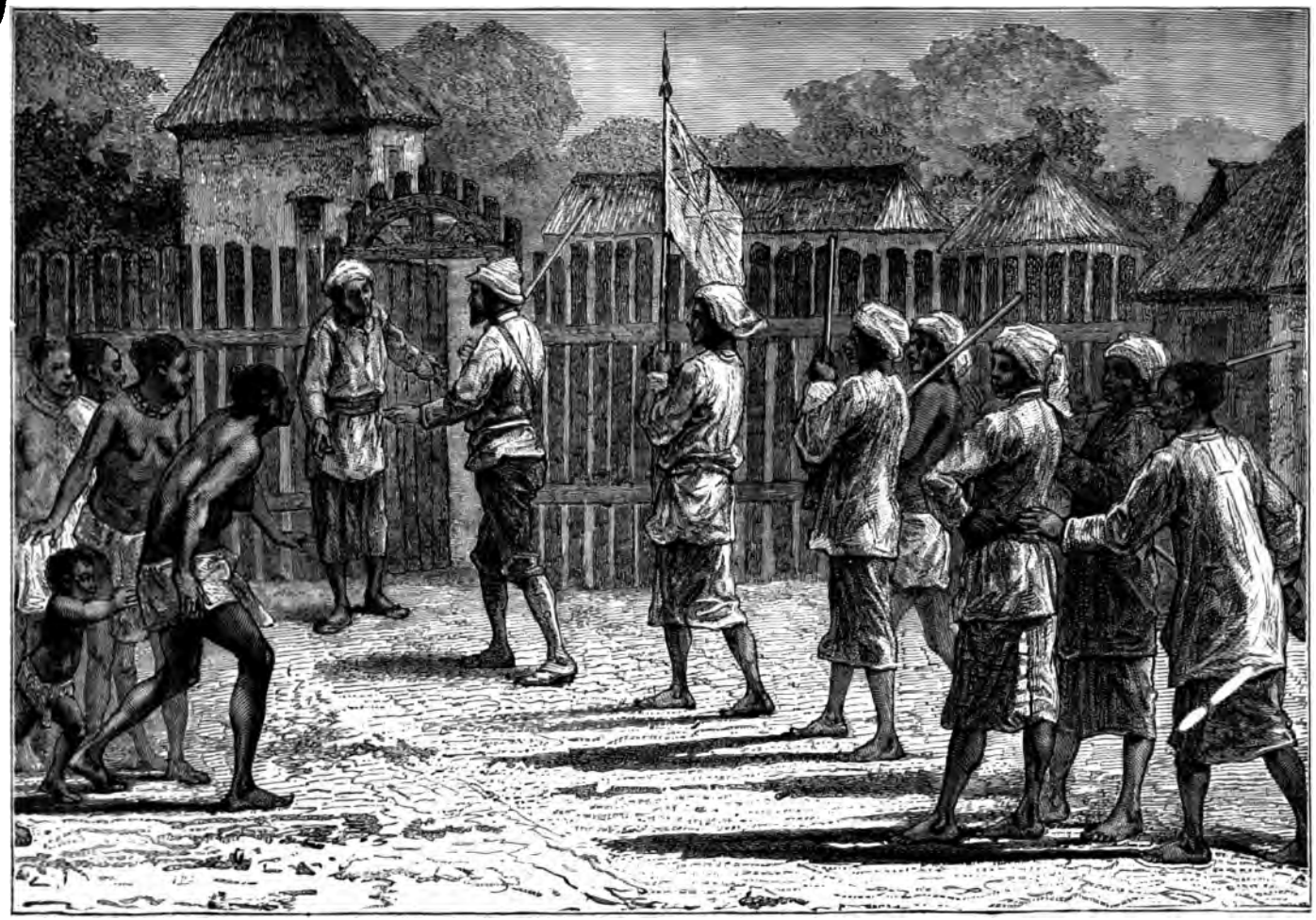
MODERN EXPLORERS.



ARRIVAL OF CAMERON AT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SENHOR GONÇALVO (*p.* 175).

MODERN EXPLORERS.

BY

THOMAS FROST,

Author of "Half-Hours with the Early Explorers," "The Realm of the Ice King," etc.

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VIEW IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

MODERN EXPLORERS.

THE TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES OF ARMINIUS VAMBÉRY IN CENTRAL ASIA.

THIS distinguished traveller is a native of Hungary. Impelled by the desire of ascertaining the relation of his native language to the Turco-Tartarian tongues, he went first to Constantinople, whence, after several years' residence, he set out for Samarcand, the capital of the famous conqueror, Timour.

Teheran, the modern capital of Persia, was reached in the middle of July, 1862, but, owing to the war having commenced between Dost Mohammed and Ahmed Khan, the ruler of Herat, he did not leave that city until the end of the following March. As a

means of more readily accomplishing the objects of his journey, he assumed the character of a dervish, or mendicant pilgrim, on his way to the shrines of Moslem saints. This character his acquaintance with

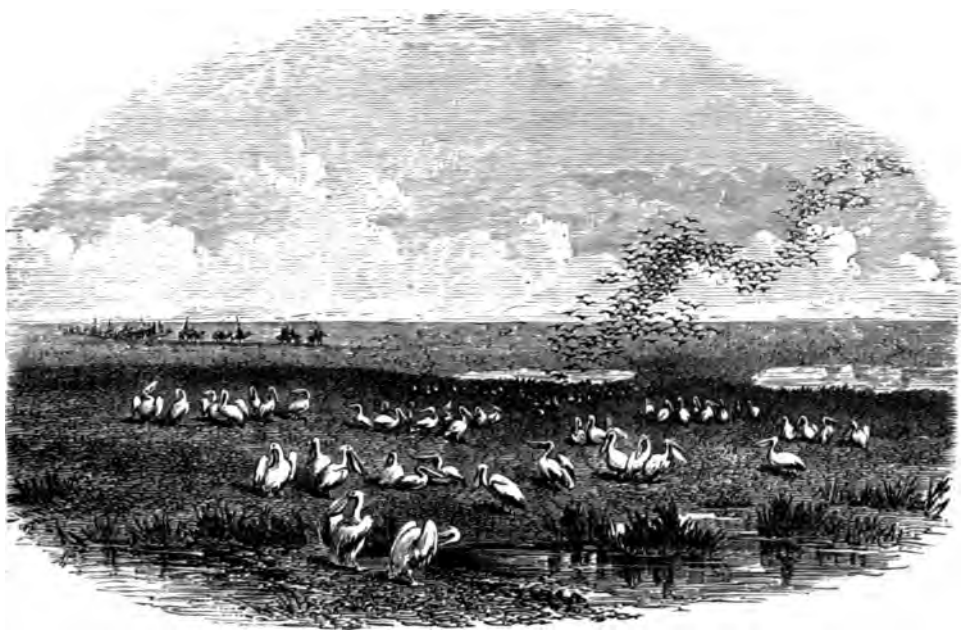
ARMINIUS VAMBÉRY.

Oriental languages, and with Mahomedan manners and customs, qualified him to assume without much fear of detection; and thus it was that he left Teheran in company with more than a score of Tartar pilgrims, a motley group of merchants, artisans, soldiers, and beggars, some mounted on asses, others trudging on foot, and mostly attired in the ragged garb of mendicancy.

Taking a north-easterly course, up the slopes of the Elburz

mountains, the travellers entered the great defile of Mazendran, from which they looked down upon primæval forests of the brightest verdure.

From this defile they entered upon the causeway made by Shah Abbas, but now fast decaying, resting at night in the midst of a beautiful forest of box. Next day they reached Sari, the chief town



STEPPES OF THE CASPIAN.

of Mazendran, and surrounded by groves of orange and lemon trees, the brightly-tinted fruit of which presented a charming contrast to their dark green foliage. Here they had to hire horses for a day's journey through the marshes between the woods and the shores of the Caspian Sea, on which they were to voyage in a small coasting vessel to Gomushtepe, a Turcoman village at the western extremity of Alexander's wall, which, according to the dwellers in that region, was built by genii at the Macedonian conqueror's command.

The pilgrims lingered three weeks in this place, much against the inclination of Vambéry, and then continued their journey in a north-

easterly direction, all now riding camels or mules. Their way lay at first over grassy plains and through marshes, covered with tall reeds, which swarmed with wild hogs.

The Persian mountains had now disappeared, and all around them, as far as they could see, stretched verdant plains, dotted here and there with a few tents, near which camels were grazing. Soon, however, the verdure ceased, and they found themselves entering upon the dreary salt-marsh through which the Etrek pursues its sluggish course towards the Caspian. To avoid other marshes, formed by the overflowing of the river, they had to follow a zigzag course, for the most part over a sandy tract, on which very few tents were visible. Crossing the Etrek with some difficulty, owing to the softness of the bottom and its flooded banks, they held on a northward course over a trackless waste, guided during the day by the sun and at night by the pole-star.

On the 16th of May the mountainous ridge called the Korentaghi was discernible in a north-easterly direction, and they passed the ruins known as the Meshedi Misryan, which Vambéry visited on the following day, and found to be an ancient fortress, consisting of a square keep, and four towers, two of them in ruins. Some other ruins were seen on the northern summit of the Korentaghi, but were passed in the night.

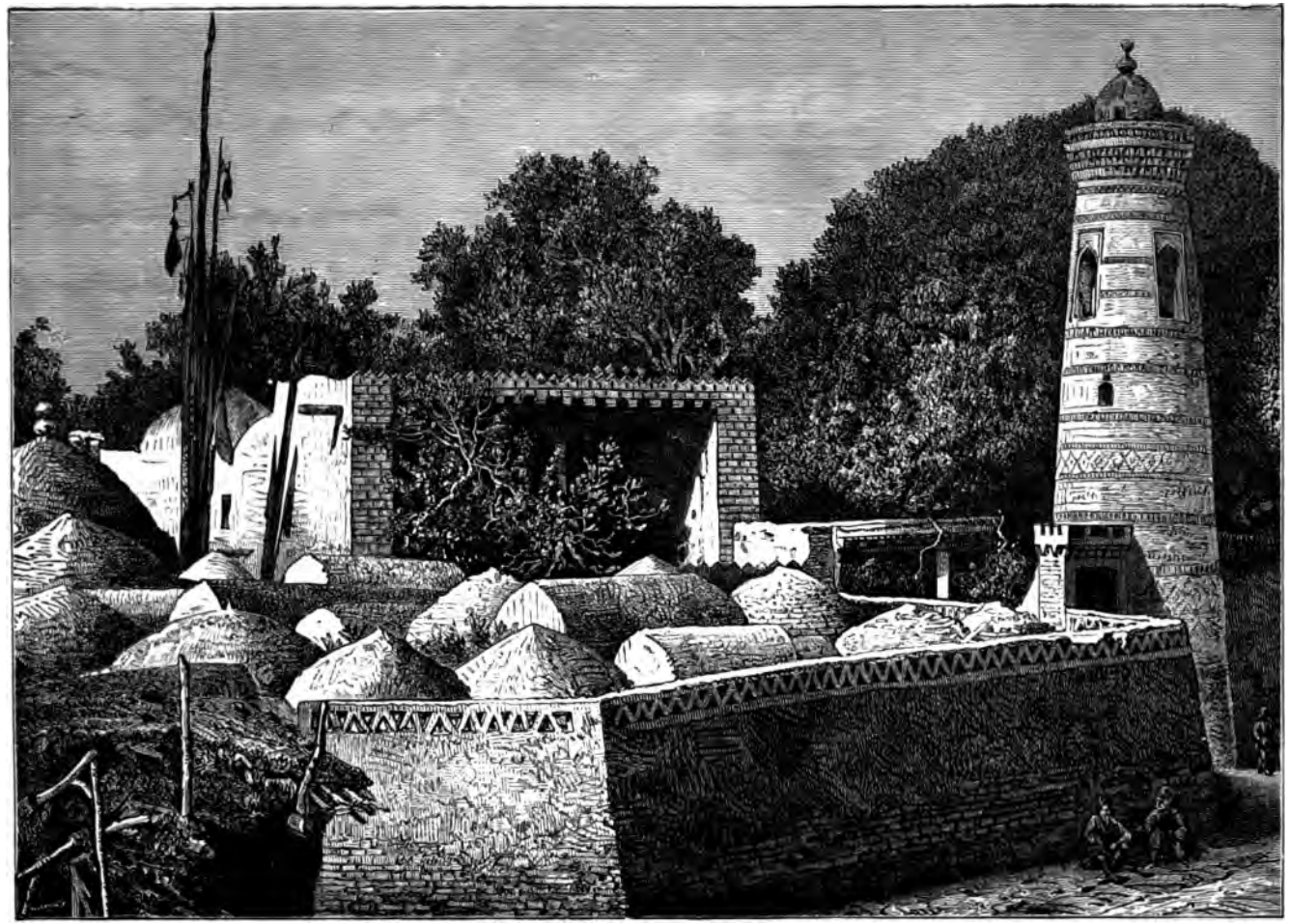
On the night of the 19th the caravan was for a time in a position of great peril. They were approaching the Little Balkan ridge, at the foot of which are many dangerous salt-marshes, which are not distinguishable from the firm ground in their vicinity, owing to a layer of salt which everywhere covers the surface. Warned by the stopping of the camels, all sprang down, and found the ground quaking and yielding beneath them. Fear rendered every one motionless until daybreak, when they slowly and carefully effected a retrograde movement, reaching the foot of the hills about ten o'clock next morning.

Along the foot of these hills they journeyed until the evening of the 21st, when they reached the Great Balkan. "The spot where we encamped," says Vambéry, "was not without its charms; for, as the

setting sun projected its rays upon the lovely valleys of the Little Balkan, one could almost fancy oneself actually in a mountainous district. The view might even be characterised as beautiful; but there is the idea of a fearful desolation, the immense abandonment which covers the whole, as it were, with a veil of mourning." On the following night, about twelve o'clock, just as they came upon a steep declivity, the guide gave the word for all to dismount, as they were entering the ancient bed of the Oxus, and the storms and rains of the preceding winter had washed away all traces of the route, which had been tolerably well defined during the summer. Crossing the old course of the river in a crooked line, in order to find a way out on the opposite side, they succeeded by daybreak in clambering out upon the plateau beyond.

The pilgrims were at this time suffering much from thirst, the springs which they found having dwindled to little pools of turbid and brackish water. On the morning of the 24th they had reached the extremity of the sandy waste over which they had been toiling, and had their hopes of soon meeting with drinkable water encouraged by coming upon numerous footprints of gazelles and wild asses. Some little pools of rain-water were presently reached, and from this spot all the way to Khiva the water-skins of the pilgrims were always full.

They were now at the foot of the plateau of Kaflankir, which rises like an island out of a sea of sand, the deep trench at its base, which the Turcomans told Vambéry was the ancient channel of the Oxus, forming the boundary on that side of the Khanate of Khiva. On this plateau the travellers observed gazelles and wild asses grazing in large herds. About noon on the second day they were on it, a great cloud of dust was seen towards the north, and the Turcoman escort stood to their arms, apprehensive of an attack. Nearer and nearer came the dust-cloud, as if raised by a charging squadron of cavalry. Hundreds of hoofs were clattering over the plateau. Presently the sound ceased suddenly, as if the troop had halted; the cloud rolled away, and an immense herd of wild asses was seen



MUSSULMAN CEMETERY AT KHIVA.

drawn up in line. For a few moments they gazed intently at the cavalcade, and then they galloped away.

Ozbeg villages now succeeded to the brown tents of the wandering tribes of the desert, and on the 2nd of June the domes and minarets of Khiva were before them, rising above gardens, and cultivated fields, and groves of poplars. Vambéry entered this town with his nerves strung to their extremest tension, for he had heard that the Khan condemned to slavery all suspected strangers. He relied much, however, on his knowledge of all the Khivites of distinction who had been in Constantinople, and especially of one, Shukrullah Bey, whom he had seen several times at the house of Ali Pacha, sometime Minister of Foreign Affairs.

To Shukrullah Bey he accordingly at once proceeded, introducing himself as an Effendi who had made the Bey's acquaintance in Constantinople, and desired to offer his respects in passing. The Bey, though surprised, made eager inquiries concerning his numerous friends in the Ottoman capital, and the events which had occurred since he had left that city. Vambéry answered all his questions with the utmost readiness, and, as he had anticipated, received next day a present and invitation from the Khan. He found that potentate sitting on a daïs in the hall of audience, with his right hand holding a golden sceptre and his left resting upon a velvet cushion. The interview was satisfactory to both, and at its termination the Khan wished Vambéry to accept a purse of twenty ducats and an ass for his further journey; and on the money being declined, on the ground that dervishes are vowed to poverty, his highness insisted upon his visitor becoming his guest during his brief stay in his capital.

Our traveller did not linger long in Khiva, for the heat was growing oppressive, and he wished to push on to Bokhara before it became intolerable. He now rode the ass presented to him by the Khan, and employed the camel to carry provisions, with which he was now well supplied. The route pursued by the caravan until the Oxus was reached was through a fertile and well-cultivated country, with

mulberry trees bordering the road, and their berries within reach of the traveller who rode in their shade.

Flood-water rendered the Oxus so wide that the farther bank was

AT DINNER.

almost indistinguishable. Owing to this extent of water, the passage occupied from ten in the morning until sunset, though the river proper was crossed in half an hour. After passing over a few miles of tolerably well cultivated land, they entered upon a sandy tract, through which they pursued a south-easterly course along the right bank of

the river. Here and there they came upon a few Khirgis tents, at which they were always sure of a draught of water or milk, which the dust and the intense heat must have rendered very acceptable.

On the fifth day of their journey along the banks of the Oxus, which are almost everywhere overgrown with willows, rushes, and tall sedges, they met five horsemen, merchants returning from Bokhara to Khiva, and learned from them the pleasing intelligence that the route was quite safe. This communication set their minds at ease, for they had heard on leaving Khiva that the Tekke Turcomans, taking advantage of the absence of the Emir and his army from Bokhara, were infesting the approaches to that city. Their agreeable reflections on this score were disturbed soon after daybreak next day, however, by meeting two men, who informed them that they had been robbed of their boots, their provisions, and most of their clothing, by a band of Tekke Turcomans, numbering about a hundred and fifty. Their Afghan guide, who had been twice robbed, and narrowly escaped with his life, immediately gave the word to retreat, which was done with as much speed as was possible with heavily-laden camels.

Having reached their last resting-place—the ruins of an ancient fortress on a green hill overlooking the Oxus—they allowed the camels three hours' rest and pasture, while filling their water-skins, and then struck into the desert, which seemed their only chance of evading the plundering Tekke. It was sunset when they left the ruins, and a few stars were visible when they reached the desert; but the moon had not yet risen to betray them to the keen sight of the robber horde, and they pursued their way in silence, the feet of the camels treading almost noiselessly upon the fine sand.

The night passed without an alarm. "Our morning station," says Vambéry, "bore the charming appellation of Adamkyrylgan (which means 'the place where men perish'), and one needed only to cast a look at the horizon to convince himself how appropriate is that name. Let the reader picture to himself a sea of sand, extending as far as eye can reach, on one side formed into hills, like waves, lashed into that position by the furious storm, on the other side, again, like the

smooth waters of a still lake, merely rippled by the west wind. Not a bird visible in the air, not a worm or beetle upon the earth; traces of nothing but departed life, in the bleaching bones of man or beast that has perished, collected by every passer-by in a heap, to guide the march of future travellers."

They were now obliged, notwithstanding the heat and dust, to use their water sparingly, and they began to suffer the tortures of thirst. Two of the camels died, two of the pilgrims became exhausted, and had to be bound at length upon their camels, and on the fourth day one of the sufferers died. So slow was their progress that they were not yet beyond the desert. And now, with the mountains in sight, the hot wind and the sand-cloud came, and they had to dismount in haste, and lie prostrate behind the camels, which fell on their knees, and strove to bury their heads in the sand. The dust-storm passed over them, and left them covered with a thick crust of hot sand.

Towards evening they reached a spring, but its water was undrinkable, and at midnight they started again, fevered and feeble, and scarcely able to move. Vambéry slept from exhaustion, and found himself in the morning in a hut, surrounded by men, whom he found to be Persian slaves, sent from Bokhara by their masters to tend sheep. By them, poor as they were, he and his companions were hospitably and kindly treated. "I was much touched," he relates, "to see amongst them a child five years old, also a slave, of great intelligence. He had been, two years before, captured and sold with his father. When I questioned him about the latter, he answered me confidingly, 'Yes; my father has bought himself (meaning paid his own ransom); at longest I shall only be a slave two years, for by that time my father will have spared the necessary money.' The poor child had on him hardly anything but a few rags, to cover his weak little body; his skin was of the hardness and colour of leather. I gave him one of my own articles of attire, and he promised to have a dress made out of it for himself."

Leaving these unhappy slaves with mingled feelings of compassion for their condition and thankfulness for their kindness, our travellers

started with the intention of making their next station at Khodja Oban, a place to which pilgrims resort to visit the grave of a Moslem saint; but they lost their way at night among the sand-hills, and found themselves at day-break on the margin of a lake. They were now on the borders of Bokhara, and free from fear of robbers, hot winds, and empty water-skins.

Their next station was a village called Khakemir, in the midst of a tolerably well-cultivated country, the whole district being watered by canals connected with the river Zereshan. This was crossed next day at a ford, though the remains of a stone bridge were visible on the farther side, near the ruins of a palace said to have been built by the renowned Abdullah Khan Sheibani. The city of Bokhara was now before them, its walls broken in many places, and its buildings presenting no traces of its former grandeur, though it is still vaunted by Bokhariots as the capital of Central Asia. Vambéry says the wretchedness of the streets

GIRL OF BOKHARA.

and houses far exceeded that of the meanest in Persian cities, and the dust, a foot deep, gave a poor idea of "noble Bokhara," as the inhabitants call it; the only thing which impressed him being the strange and diversified mixture of races and costumes, which present a striking spectacle to the eye of a stranger.

Vambéry was well lodged here, and had access to the best society; but the task of maintaining his assumed character was a difficult one, and it is probable that only the sanctity supposed to attach to that character guarded his secret. He believed that he was suspected, and that many devices were resorted to with the view of causing him to betray himself. "One day," he says, "a servant of the Vizier brought to me a little shrivelled individual, that I might examine him, to see whether he was, as he pretended, really an Arab from Damascus. When he first entered, his features struck me much—they appeared to me European. When he opened his mouth, my astonishment and perplexity increased, for I found his pronunciation anything rather than that of an Arab. He told me that he had undertaken a pilgrimage to the tomb of Djafen Ben Sadik, at Khoten, in China, and wanted to proceed on his journey that very day. His features during our conversation betrayed visible embarrassment, and it was a subject of great regret to me that I had not an occasion to see him a second time, for I am strongly disposed to think that he was playing a part similar to my own."

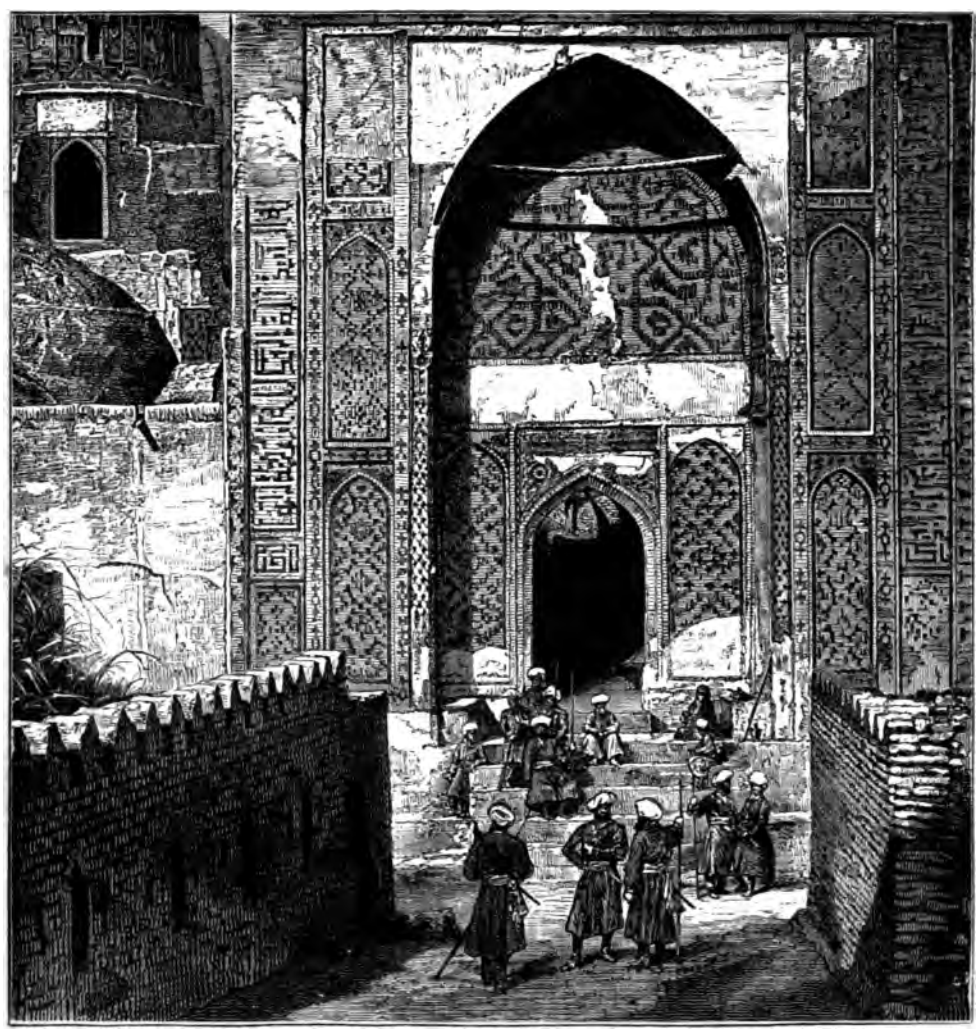
Some of the pilgrims being left in Bokhara, the caravan was reduced on leaving that city to the occupants of a couple of carts of very primitive construction, in which they were jolted in a most unpleasant manner, as the wheels—far from perfect circles—rolled through the deep sand or mud. Night was chosen for starting, and as the driver was not familiar with the road he mistook the way, and it was morning when the little town of Mezar was reached. The journey was resumed, therefore, after a brief halt, through a fertile and well-cultivated country, more refreshing to the eye than anything the travellers had seen since they had left the Pontos mountains behind them.

Next evening they reached Kette Kurgan, where there is a fortress defended by a strong wall and a deep trench, and, the sun having set, the gates were closed, and they had to lodge at a caravanserai outside the walls. Samarcand was reached on the sixth day, and the first impression made by its domes and minarets,

ANCIENT PALACE AT SAMARCAND.

brightened by the sunbeams, and brought into relief by a background of groves and gardens, was very pleasing. Of this ancient city, to which so much historical interest attaches, Vambéry says that "although it equals Teheran in circumference, its houses do not lie so close together; still, the prominent buildings and ruins offer a far more magnificent prospect. The eye is most struck by four lofty edifices, in the form of half-domes, the fronts of the Medresses (colleges). As we advance, we perceive first a small

neat dome, and further to the south a larger and more imposing one; the former is the tomb, the latter the mosque, of Timour.



GATE OF THE MOSQUE OF SHAH ZINDEH, SAMARCAND.

Quite facing us, on the south-westerly limit of the city, on a hill, rises the citadel, round which other mosques and tombs are grouped. If we suppose the whole intermixed with closely-planted gardens, we shall have a faint idea of Samarcand."

Like all eastern cities, this "focus of the whole globe," as a Persian poet calls it, shows best at a distance; but many of its antiquities are interesting even to Europeans. The summer palace of Timour retains much of its ancient splendour, being approached by an ascent of forty broad marble steps, and containing apartments with mosaic floors, the colours of which are as brilliant as if they had been executed by the present generation of workmen. Three flags, a breastplate, and an old sword, doubtful relics of the great Emir, were shown to our traveller by the custodian. The mosque of Timour has a melon-shaped dome, and is rich in decorations of coloured bricks and inscriptions from the Koran in gold letters. The mosque of Shah Zindel exhibits similar mural decorations, but they are defaced in many places, and the arched gateway shows the ravages of time in its broken brickwork. The citadel contains the reception-hall of Timour, with the celebrated green stone upon which the conquering Emir had his throne placed. The tomb of Timour consists of a neat chapel, surmounted by a splendid central dome and two smaller ones, and surrounded by a wall, in which is a high arched gate. The tomb is under the central dome, and is covered with a flat dark-green stone. The walls of the chapel are covered internally with alabaster, decorated with arabesque designs in blue and gold.

Vambéry was preparing for his departure from Samarcand, where he stayed only eight days, when the Emir, returning from his victorious campaign in Khokand, made his triumphal entry into the city. There was a great crowd, but no particular pomp was displayed. Two hundred horsemen rode first, and were followed by infantry, with flags and drums. "The Emir and all his escort," says our traveller, "looked, with their snow-white turbans and wide silk garments of all the colours of the rainbow, more like the chorus of women in the opera of 'Nebuchadnezzar' than a troop of Tartar warriors. So also it may be said with respect to other officers of the Court, of whom some bore white staves and others halberds, that there was in the whole procession nothing to remind one of Turkestan, except in the

followers, of whom many were Kiptchaks, and attracted attention by their Mongol features and the arms which they bore, consisting of bows, arrows, and shields."

The Emir held a public audience on the following day, and Vambéry presented himself, sustaining his well-assumed character of a

INTERIOR OF A TURCOMAN TENT.

Mohamedan pilgrim with his usual address, and again with success. He was advised by his friends, however, to quit Samarcand with all speed, and gain as quickly as possible the farther bank of the Oxus. He left the city by night, but travelled slowly, on account of the heat, passing through a well-cultivated country, in a south-westerly direction; Herat, of which so much has been heard of late in connection with events in Afghanistan, being his next goal. Karshi, a town

of considerable size and commercial importance, was reached on the third day, and our traveller was surprised to find there a public garden, with flower-beds and tea-stalls, on a scale which he had not found in Bokhara or Samarcand, or even in Persia. He remained there three days, and at sunrise on the second day of the resumed journey reached the Oxus, on the nearer bank of which stands a small

TURCOMAN WOMEN.

fort, and on the opposite side, on a steep hill, the citadel, around which is spread the frontier town of Kerki.

Having to await here the arrival of the caravan for Herat, he availed himself of the delay to visit the ruins of ancient Balkh, styled by Oriental writers "the mother of cities." Only a few heaps of earth are pointed out as remains of the ancient Bactra, and of the more modern ruins there is nothing more remarkable than a half-demolished mosque, built by the Seldjoukian Sultan Sandjar in the days when Balkh was the centre of Moslem civilisation.

The caravan in which our traveller turned his back upon the

Khanate of Bokhara consisted of four hundred camels, nearly as many asses, and a few horses. Some of the men were pilgrims, others emancipated slaves returning to their native countries. The country traversed was for some distance a barren plain, then, as the north-western frontier of Afghanistan was approached, it became hilly. A broad valley was threaded, and then a steep mountain pass was traversed, so narrow that the caravan had to wind through it in single file. Thence they descended into a long valley, through which the river Murgab ran swiftly, in crossing which Vambéry's ass fell, and precipitated him into the water, amidst the laughter of his companions. The river was not deep, however, and he escaped with no greater mishap than a wetting.

From this ford to Herat is reckoned four days' journey for horses, but camels require double that time, the country being mountainous. It became wilder and more picturesque as the travellers advanced, the ruins of old castles crowning the precipices between which the Murgab pours its foaming stream. Beyond the second pass they left the river, and proceeded in a westerly direction, reaching next day the ruins of the town and fortress of Kalè No, the site of which was occupied by a few tents of the Hezare, a tribe of mixed Tartar and Persian descent. Thence to Herat is twenty miles, but the way lies over lofty mountains, and requires four days for its accomplishment. The highest summit was passed on the second day, and was covered with snow, so that the travellers suffered severely from cold, in spite of the great fires which they made when they halted. Thence they descended a path only a foot wide, along a ledge from which a precipice rose above a deep ravine.

Rounding the shoulder of a mountain, they looked down upon the broad and fertile plains in which Herat stands, dotted with villages, and intersected by numerous canals. Trees only are wanted to complete the charm of the landscape. The city, having been recently besieged by Dost Mahomed, presented a ruinous appearance. "The houses which we passed, the advanced works, the very gate," says Vambéry, "looked like a heap of rubbish. Near the latter is the

citadel, which, from its elevation, served as a mark for the Afghan artillery; it lies there blasted and half-demolished. The doors and windows have been stripped of their woodwork, for during the siege the inhabitants suffered most from the scarcity of fuel. Each step we advance we see greater indications of devastation. Entire quarters of the town remain solitary and abandoned."

Our traveller's resources were by this time exhausted, and he was compelled to sell his ass. He waited upon an envoy sent by the Governor of Khorassan to the young Sirdar of Herat, Yakoub Khan, in hope of obtaining employment, but without success. His fellow-travellers had dispersed, only one remaining with him—a young man who had become attached to him, and eventually accompanied him to Pesth. To leave no stone unturned, he waited upon Yakoub Khan—then a lad of fifteen—who seemed to penetrate his secret immediately; for, regarding him for a moment with a look of surprise and perplexity, he raised a finger, and smilingly exclaimed, "I swear you are an Englishman!" Before Vambéry could reply, he sprang from his chair, and, clapping his hands, exclaimed, "Pardon me; but you are an Englishman, are you not?" The traveller assumed a grave look, and reminded the young prince of the proverb attributed by tradition to the prophet of Mecca, "He who takes the believer for an unbeliever is himself an unbeliever." This rejoinder disconcerted Yakoub, who resumed his seat, observing in an apologetic tone that he had never before seen a *hadji* from Bokhara with such a physiognomy. Vambéry replied that he was not a Bokhariot, but a Stambouli; and, producing his Turkish passport, mentioned Yakoub's cousin, the son of Akbar Khan, who was in Constantinople in 1860. The prince then spoke very graciously to him, and invited him to repeat his visit as often as he could.

Two days before he left Herat our traveller made an excursion to the village of Gazerghiah, situated on an eminence a league from the city, and containing many memorials of antiquity, dating from the time of Shah Rookh Mirza, a son of Timour. Near the village are the ruins of Mosalla, which were also visited. The remains of the

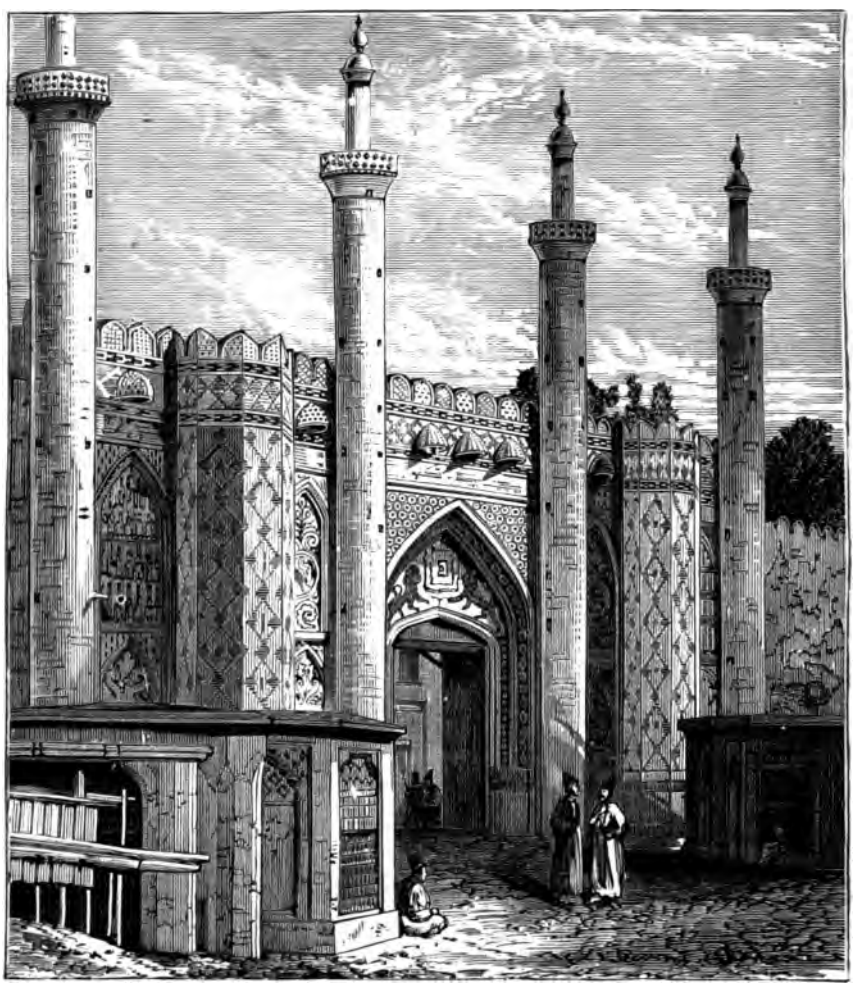
HALT OF A PERSIAN CARAVAN.

A PERSIAN OFFICIAL.

mosque and sepulchre of Sultan Hoosein Mirza, erected 891, display a large amount of elaborate carving, many of the stones being covered with inscriptions from the Koran.

On the 15th of November, 1863, Vambéry quitted Herat with

the great caravan bound for Meshed, and consisting of 2,000 persons, about half of whom were Hezare pilgrims from Cabul,



THE OLD SOUTH GATE, TEHERAN.

and a large proportion of the remainder Afghan merchants from that city and from Candahar. He obtained permission to ride upon a lightly-loaded camel by representing that he should be able to pay when the caravan reached Meshed; but by this statement he raised doubts of the genuineness of the character which he had assumed, so

far with success. "The dubious light in which I stood, afforded," he says, "a fund of interesting surmises to those by whom I was surrounded; for whilst some of them took me for a genuine Turk, others were disposed to think me an Englishman; the different parties even quarrelled on the subject, and it was very droll to observe how the latter began to triumph over the former when it was observed that, in proportion as we drew near to Meshed, the bent posture of humility of the dervish began more and more to give way to the upright and independent deportment of the European."

Meshed was reached on the twelfth day after the departure of the caravan from Herat, and there our traveller was hospitably received by Colonel Dolmage, who filled several important offices under Murad Mirza, uncle of the reigning Shah, and governor of the city. The disguise was now thrown off, and, reflecting that the truth concerning him would become known at Herat on the return of the Afghans who had travelled with him from that city, he wrote to Yakoub Khan, avowing that, though not an Englishman, he was a European, and complimenting the young prince on the acuteness which had penetrated his disguise.

For a month he was the honoured guest of Colonel Dolmage, and then he set out for Teheran. That city was reached on the 20th of January, 1864, and he proceeded immediately to the Turkish embassy, whence he had started ten months before on his adventurous journey. A suite of apartments was immediately set apart for him, the British and French ambassadors vied with each other in showing him kindness, and the Shah accorded him a gracious reception. He remained in the Persian capital more than two months, and then set out for Constantinople, *viâ* Tabreez and Trebizond.

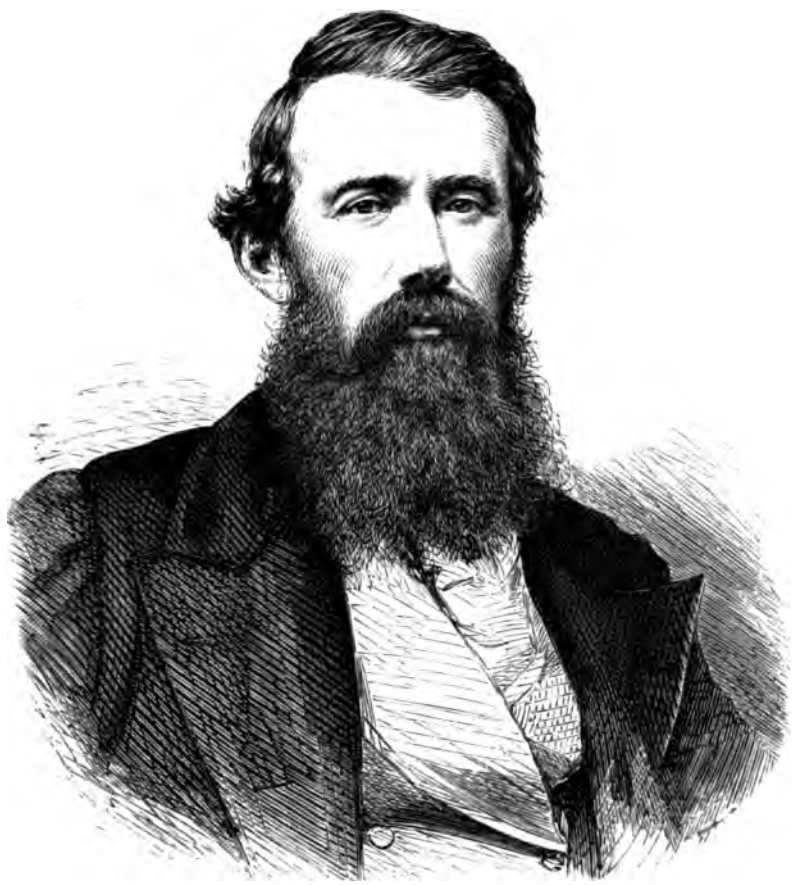
VIEW ON THE NILE.

SIR SAMUEL BAKER'S EXPLORATION OF THE LAKE REGION OF EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

THE sources of the Nile constituted for ages one of the most interesting problems in physical geography. The length of its course, and the inaccessibility of the region in which it has its rise, invested them with a mystery which seemed destined to be eternal. Though Bruce, more than a century ago, announced that he had discovered them, it was subsequently shown that the spring which he reached was the source, not of the main stream, distinguished by the natives as the White Nile, but of the tributary river known as the Blue Nile.

In 1858 Captains Burton and Speke discovered Lake Tanganika,

and the latter, during the sojourn of the former at Unyanyembé, discovered Lake Victoria, the importance of which Burton thought was less than supposed by Speke. In 1860, therefore, Speke set out



CAPTAIN SPEKE.

again, accompanied by Captain Grant, and early in 1862 again sighted the great lake near Memka. Further exploration convinced him that here the sources of the Nile were reached, the river flowing out of the lake on the north. He passed some time, while on this expedition, at the court of Mtesa (pronounced Umtesa, as are all native names similarly spelled), the powerful king of Uganda, whom he describes as

a vain and cruel tyrant. The young monarch—he was a mere youth at that time—was one day about to put to death one of his numerous

SPEKE SAVING ONE OF MTESA'S WIVES FROM DEATH.

wives, when Speke interposed, and saved her from falling a victim to his headstrong passions.

While these travellers were still engaged in their explorations, Sir Samuel (then Mr.) White Baker resolved to attempt the solution of the Nile mystery, and, with great intrepidity, determined to pro-

ceed without companions, trusting to the guidance of Divine Providence. His wife, however, resolved to accompany him, and though he strove to deter her from the undertaking by painting in the darkest colours the difficulties and dangers of the expedition, she could not be dissuaded from her purpose. They set out from Cairo together, therefore, in the middle of April, 1861, and on reaching Roratko, after a voyage of twenty-six days on the Nile, they started across the Nubian desert, thus cutting off the western curve of the river, which they struck again at Abou Hamed.

By the time Berber was reached, the adventurous traveller had become convinced that success was hopeless without a knowledge of Arabic. He resolved, therefore, to devote a year to exploring the Abyssinian tributaries of the Nile, hoping in that time to acquire a sufficient knowledge of that language to enable him to start on the great object of his expedition. This purpose he carried out, and then proceeded to Khartoum, eight days' journey above Berber, arriving there on the 11th of June, 1862.

Owing to the refusal of the Governor-General of the Soudan to recognise the Viceroy's firman as applying to the Nile, on the plea that the river ceased there as the Nile, and was known above Khartoum as the White River only, the 18th of December arrived before a start was effected, every difficulty in the way of procuring seamen and servants being interposed by the authorities. For the first six weeks of the voyage, or as far as Gondokoro, the following description will serve for the whole of the country through which the Nile runs in that part of its course :—"The general appearance of the country denotes a vast flat, with slight depressions; these form extensive lakes during the wet season, and sodden marshes during the dry weather. There is nothing to denote large permanent lakes; vast masses of water—vegetation requiring both a wet and a dry season—exist throughout; but there are no great tracts of deep water."

At daybreak on the 2nd of February our travellers sighted the mountains near Gondokoro, which was reached the same day.

It is not a town, but merely a station of the ivory-traders. Here the character of the river changed. The banks rose, and were well wooded; and the adjacent country appeared populous and well cultivated. Mountains were seen in the distance, and the

SIR SAMUEL AND LADY BAKER.

whole scene was a relief to the eye after dwelling so long upon the dreary and monotonous flats below.

At Gondokoro our traveller had some trouble with the slave-dealers and ivory-traders, who wished to deer him from proceeding, and incited his escort to mutiny. For a moment the aspect of affairs was threatening, as, on seizing the ringleader, he was attacked, and the mutineer rescued; but the sudden appearance of Mrs. [illegible] created a diversion, and he promptly availed of it to have

MEETING OF SPEKE AND GRANT WITH BAKER.

the drum beat, and ordered the men, in his loudest tone, to "fall in." Two-thirds of the mutineers obeyed mechanically, and Mrs. Baker's tact in begging her husband to pardon the ringleader if he would apologise and submit, won over the rest. Pardon was granted, and order was restored as suddenly as it had been interrupted.

Speke and Grant arrived unexpectedly on the 15th of February, worn and weary, and in tattered garments; but they had their reward in being able to announce that they had, as they supposed, discovered the source of the Nile. "Does not one leaf of the laurel remain for me?" Baker asked of Speke. The latter was evidently not fully satisfied with the result of his explorations, and communicated to Baker information received from natives which determined him to proceed. Speke and Grant left on the 26th, *en route* for England; but, owing to the troubles interposed by the traders, a second mutiny among his men, and the difficulty of replacing those who had proved themselves utterly unreliable and faithless, Baker was unable to proceed until a month later.

Even then he started without either interpreter or guide, and with only seventeen men. On the second day's march the cavalcade was joined by two men whom Baker had seen at Gondokoro, and who had now deserted, on account of ill usage, a trading party who had started the day before. This was a fortunate acquisition, as these men knew the route which Baker proposed to follow as far as Latooka, ninety miles distant. The country was, however, very difficult to traverse; thorny jungles alternating with ravines, at every one of which the camels had to be unloaded, only to be reloaded when it was crossed. At every halt the donkeys lay down, and by rolling on the sand shifted their loads, which, in consequence, had also to be replaced.

The country became more picturesque as they proceeded. Emerging from the jungle upon an eminence, they "looked down upon the valley of Tollago. An abrupt wall of grey granite rose on the east side of the valley to the height of about a thousand feet;

from this perpendicular wall huge blocks had fallen, strewing the base with a confused mass of granite lumps ten to forty feet in diameter; and among these natural fortresses were numerous villages. The bottom of the valley was a meadow, in which grew enormous fig-trees by the side of a sluggish brook. The valley was not more than half a mile wide, and was also walled in by mountains on the west." The valley narrowed very much, and was at last closed in by an acclivity so steep that Baker and his wife, who were riding ahead, had to dismount, and lead their horses up the rocks.

On reaching the summit, they saw the most beautiful view which they had yet seen. "The valley of Ellyria was about four thousand feet below, at about a mile distant. Beautiful mountains, some two or three thousand feet high, of grey granite, walled in the narrow vale; while the landscape of forest and plain was bounded, at about fifty or sixty miles distance to the east, by the blue mountains of Latooka." While waiting for the cavalcade in the rear, they were overtaken by the Turkish trading party, which they were so anxious to outmarch, and the men of which now, as they came up, regarded them with insolent and contemptuous glances. The fate of the expedition seemed sealed; but the tact and promptitude of Mrs. Baker again averted a disaster. She called Ibrahim, the Turk who led the trading party, and, after a moment's hesitation, he turned his donkey towards them, and dismounted. Baker then reasoned with him, saying that he wanted neither slaves nor ivory, and had no commercial or political purpose to serve, the sole object of his journey being to discover the sources of the Nile. By working alternately upon his fears and his cupidity, he was gradually won over, and before they parted promised to aid the traveller's purpose so far as he could for a suitable reward.

Both parties then entered Ellyria, where Baker and Ibrahim met under a tree, and cemented the alliance, the Turk receiving a double-barrelled gun and some money as a retainer. On the 30th of March the two parties, the traders' being much the strongest, left Ellyria together, Baker and Ibrahim riding together in front, the latter with his pretty infant daughter on the saddle before him, and

Mrs. Baker and the Turk's wife, a good-looking native woman, just behind. For two days the way lay across a flat country, with few trees, but on the third they entered a woody region, abounding in game—elephants, rhinoceri, antelopes, buffaloes, and giraffes. Emerging from this forest, they came upon "a beautiful plain of fine grass, bounded on the right by jungle. It being the cool hour of evening, the plain was alive with game, including buffaloes, zebras, and many varieties of antelopes."

At the palisaded town of Latomé, one of the principal places in the Latooka country, the chief refused a passage, and a quarrel ensued, which was brought to a close by a serjeant of Ibrahim's escort knocking the chief down. Threats and brandishing of arms ensued, but Ibrahim's party outnumbered the men of the place, and their chief found discretion "the better part of valour." Baker's men still showed a mutinous spirit; they had supported the Latookas against Ibrahim, and the next morning they refused to march. Baker knocked down the ringleader, and by seizing two or three of the nearest mutineers, and dragging them to the camels, which they mechanically began to load, quelled the revolt.

From Latomé they travelled through a beautiful wooded valley, in which five of Baker's men deserted, taking with them their arms and ammunition. "The vultures shall pick their bones!" exclaimed the exasperated traveller, when informed of their defection; and his men regarded him as a "prophet" when it was subsequently ascertained that all the deserters had been slain in a razzia made by Ibrahim upon a neighbouring village, in which they and other natives had taken part. Game being abundant, Baker, who was a keen sportsman, rode out one morning to look for an elephant or a giraffe. Pursuing a herd of elephants into the bush, he came up with a fine old male, which he wounded in the shoulder. The animal rushed on until again wounded, when he turned and charged. Baker turned his horse and fled at a gallop, his rifle being unloaded; and the elephant, after pursuing him for a hundred yards, halted, apparently in distress. More elephants now came rushing through

the bush, and Baker rode in pursuit. Not succeeding in coming up with them, he returned to look for the one he had shot, and found him so far from dead that he made a furious charge as soon as he perceived his assailant. Baker again fled. Two hours later, the

BAKER QUELLING THE MUTINY.

elephant was found again, and being wounded the third time, again charged as boldly as at first. Baker again turned, and was chased for more than a mile, "the brute overhauling me so fast," says the traveller, "that he was within ten to twelve yards of the horse's tail, with his trunk stretched out to catch him." Providentially, the elephant abandoned the chase at the moment when Baker felt that he would be run down, and was next morning found dead in the jungle.

Latooka was left on the 2nd of May, and the valley followed for eighteen miles, which brought the travellers to the base of a ridge of granitic mountains, beyond which was another woody valley, through which ran the river Kanieti. On the 5th they commenced what Baker calls "the most lovely march I have ever made in Africa. Winding through the bosom of the mountains, covered with forest until the bare granite peaks towered above all vegetation to the height of about five thousand feet, we continued through narrow valleys, bordered by abrupt spurs of the mountains. On the peak of each was a village. These impregnable positions are chosen for security. For two hours we toiled up a steep zigzag pass. The air was most invigorating; beautiful wild flowers, some of which were highly scented, ornamented the route, and wild vines hung in festoons from tree to tree."

Twelve miles from the summit of the pass, the village of Obbo was reached. Thunder-storms and heavy rain now became so frequent, however, that a retreat into the Latooka country was made, and an encampment was formed in a valley, where Baker enclosed a garden, in which he cultivated onions, beans, yams, lettuces, and radishes, and amused himself with shooting wild ducks and geese. Much to his vexation and disgust, the resolve of Ibrahim to return to Obbo obliged him to go also, as his own party was not strong enough to remain alone, surrounded by the Latookas. The wet season was not yet over, and this necessitated a long and miserable sojourn at Obbo, as the river Asua is not fordable until the flood water has subsided. Then Baker was laid up with fever, so that the onward journey had to be deferred until he was well enough to travel.

On the 5th of January, 1864, the southward march was resumed, both the traveller and his wife riding upon oxen. The country before them was open and undulating, and abounded in rich pasturage. It seemed thickly populated, but the large herds of cattle belonging to the villages were driven away to places of concealment on the approach of Ibrahim's party. Three days' march

brought them to the Asua, which was now almost dry. Thooa was reached on the 13th, but there another delay occurred. The Obbo porters absconded, and others could not be obtained. Ibrahim's men were unwilling to proceed further, but, as they had not been very successful in procuring ivory, Baker was able to prevail upon their leader to prolong their alliance.

The river which, flowing from the foot of the Victoria Nyanza, falls into the Albert Nyanza at Magungo, and which Speke supposed to be the main stream of the Nile, was reached on the 22nd. Early next morning they started for Karuma. "Nothing," says Baker, "could exceed the beauty of the march. Our course through the noble forest was parallel with the river, that roared beneath us on our right in a succession of rapids and falls between high cliffs covered with groves of bananas and a variety of palms, including the graceful wild date. . . . After a most enjoyable march through the exciting scene of the glorious river crashing over innumerable falls, and in many places ornamented with rocky islands, upon which were villages and plantain groves, we reached the Karuma Falls, close to the village of Atada, above the ferry."

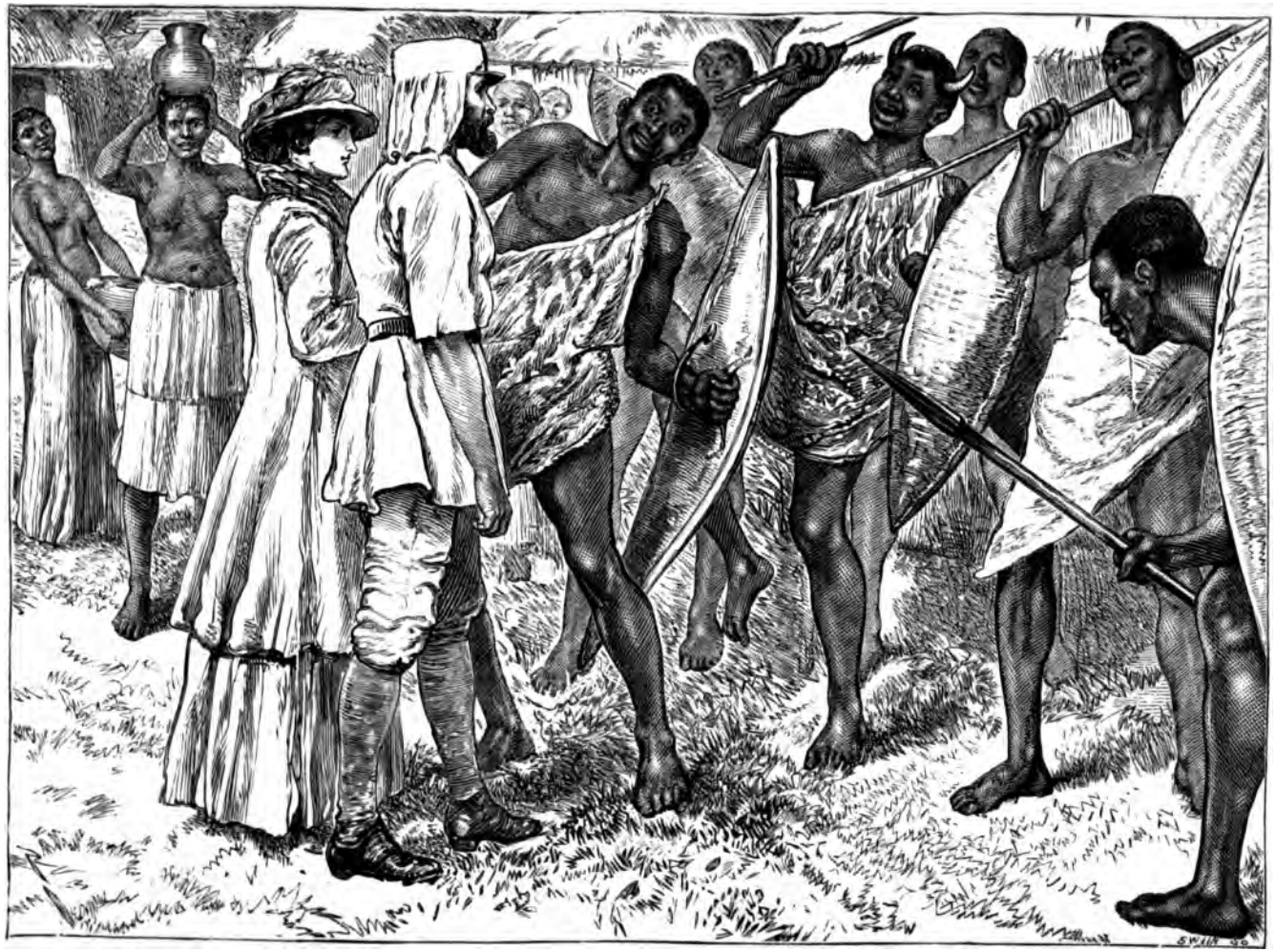
The heights were thronged with natives, and on the appearance of Baker in a tweed suit, such as had been worn by Speke, causing a rumour to spread that Speke's brother had arrived, a deputation came across the river in a canoe to welcome him. He was not allowed to cross, however, until the chiefs had been consulted, and even then permission was given only for himself and Mrs. Baker. Ibrahim and two of Baker's most trusted men, who had accompanied him up the Nile, got into the ferry-boat to arrange the presents for the king, Kamrasi, and among the goods thus introduced were several rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition, tied up in a blanket. Orders were given for the whole force to cross the river by swimming, on a preconcerted signal being given, and when the boat put off Ibrahim and the two Nubians contrived to be of the party.

As it was quite dark when they started, and the current just below the fall very rapid, a large fire was made on the opposite bank,

level with the river, to guide the rowers to the landing-place. Landing upon a rock near the fire, they were received by a crowd of people, some blowing horns, others bearing torches, and marched up a steep path, through a dusky grove of bananas. The torch-bearers went first, followed by a long file of spearmen, and in the midst Baker and his wife, closely attended by Ibrahim and the two Nubians; a number of natives who had volunteered to carry the luggage, and a noisy mob, forming the rear. The summit of the cliff gained, a short walk brought them to a village, where they were hospitably received by the headman, who, in an apologetic manner, explained that the mistrust which had delayed them on the other side of the river was due to the treachery of the men of Debono's expedition, who had been welcomed as friends of Speke and Grant, but who had repaid the hospitality of their hosts by plundering and slaying them.

These Unyoro people were decently dressed, and many evidences of progress towards civilisation were presented which were not observable farther north. Smiths, wire-drawers, and potters were at work, and the huts, each with a garden attached, were larger and loftier than the bee-hive structures everywhere found between Gondokoro and the great lakes. But neither these signs of semi-civilisation, nor the hospitality of the people, reconciled Baker to the delay interposed by the refusal of the headmen to allow his followers to cross the river until permission was received from Kamrasi, to whom the arrival of "Speke's brother" had been announced by a messenger.

Late on the 28th a polite message was received from the king, inviting Baker to his capital, and apologising for not coming to Atada to receive him. After an attempt had been made to delay his departure until another message had been received, and a brief though stormy altercation between Baker and the headmen, permission was given for his followers to cross the river, and the whole were ferried over in the course of that and the following day. The start was made on the 31st, therefore, the route lying through a thickly-populated country, well cultivated, plantain groves and fields of



BAKER AND THE PEOPLE OF KAMRASI.

sesamé, sweet potatoes, beans, dhurra, and maize being visible as far as they could see.

During the journey Mrs. Baker was attacked with bilious fever, and Kamrasi's capital—a large village of grass huts—was not reached until the 10th of February. Kamrasi's mistrustfulness prompted him to keep the river between his own abode and the camping-ground assigned to the travellers, but on the following day he crossed with a large retinue, and gave Baker an audience. He is described as "a fine-looking man, but with a peculiar expression of countenance, owing to his extremely prominent eyes. He was about six feet high, beautifully clean, and dressed in a long robe of bark-cloth, most gracefully folded. His complexion was about as dark a brown as that of an Abyssinian. He sat upon a copper stool, placed upon a carpet of leopard skins, and was surrounded by his principal chiefs."

Baker presented this dusky potentate with a Persian carpet, a white Cashmere mantle, a red silk sash, a pair of red leather shoes, several pairs of socks, a double-barrelled gun, and a heap of bead necklaces and girdles; receiving in return ample supplies of food. But, after a vain attempt to enlist Baker's aid in an expedition against a neighbour, he endeavoured to dissuade him from proceeding, misrepresented the distance of the great lake reported to exist westward, and interposed various obstacles to his departure. Finding, however, that the traveller was determined to proceed, he at length provided him with a guide and some porters, and permitted him to depart.

The route westward was, for the first half of the distance, through a swampy country, parallel to the river Kafoor, after crossing which it was woody, but still flat. During this journey Mrs. Baker received a sun-stroke, the torpor of which was succeeded by brain fever. A week of anxiety and sadness was passed by her husband, himself suffering from fever and fatigue; and then, as much to his surprise as pleasure, she became convalescent.

[illegible]suming their journey, the lady being carried in a litter, they

reached in the evening a village called Parkani, where sugar-canes were growing in the fields, and wild coffee-trees in the adjacent forest. Here they learned that the great lake was within half a day's journey. "That night," says Baker, "I hardly slept. For years I had striven to reach the sources of the Nile. In my dreams I had always failed; but now the cup was at my lips, and I was to drink at the mysterious fountain before another sun should set. . . . The sun had not risen when I was spurring my ox after the guide, who, having been promised a double handful of beads on arrival at the lake, had caught the enthusiasm of the moment. The day broke beautifully clear, and having crossed a deep valley between the hills, we toiled up the opposite slope. I hurried to the summit. There, like a sea of quicksilver, lay, far beneath, the grand expanse of water, a boundless sea-horizon on the south and south-west, glittering in the noonday sun; and on the west, at fifty or sixty miles distance, blue mountains rose from the bosom of the lake to a height of about seven thousand feet above its level. It is impossible to describe the triumph of that moment; here was the reward for all our labour. England had won the sources of the Nile! I had arranged to give three cheers with all our men in English style, in honour of the discovery, but now . . . I felt too serious to vent my feelings in vain cheers for victory, and I thanked God for having guided and supported us through all dangers to the end."

A very steep and zigzag path descended to a level expanse of verdure, dotted with trees and bushes, stretching from the foot of the precipice to the margin of the lake. Here they quartered themselves in the village of Vacovia, inhabited by fishermen and hippopotamus-hunters. Baker, in the fulness of heart arising from his success, gave his men a great feast, and proclaimed a general amnesty for past offences. At sunrise next morning he commenced a survey of the lake, which he named the Albert Nyanza, accompanied by his guide and the headman of the village. The atmosphere being clear, a powerful telescope enabled him to discern two large waterfalls, looking

like threads of silver on the dark side of the mountains on the opposite side. The mountains were very distinctly outlined against the bright blue sky, and deep gorges in their sides were indicated by dark shadows.

"It was a grand sight," says Baker, "to look upon this vast

CROSSING THE DESERT.

reservoir of the mighty Nile, and to watch the heavy swell tumbling upon the beach, while far to the south-west the eye searched vainly for a bound. It was with extreme emotion that I enjoyed this glorious scene. My wife, who had followed me so devotedly, stood by my side, pale and exhausted—a wreck upon the shores of the great Albert Lake we had so long striven to reach. No European foot had ever trod its sand, nor had the eyes of a white man ever scanned its

vast expanse. We were the first. Here was the great basin of the Nile!"

Deeming the problem solved, and knowing that their return to England depended upon their reaching Gondokoro before the end of April, Baker determined not to linger upon the shores of the lake, and made arrangements for the return journey without loss of time. Eight days passed, however, before boats could be hired, and in the meantime the whole party was prostrated by fever. Their guide had preceded them with the oxen to Magungo, as the cliffs, which in many places descended abruptly into deep water, precluded the possibility of travelling by the beach.

The first day's voyage, Baker says, "was delightful. The lake was calm, the sky cloudy, the scenery most lovely. At times the mountains on the west coast were not discernible, and the lake appeared of indefinite width. We coasted within a hundred yards of the east shore; sometimes we passed flats of sand and bush of perhaps a mile in width, at other times we passed directly underneath stupendous heights of about fifteen hundred feet, which ascended abruptly from the deep, so that we fended the canoes off the sides, and assisted our progress by pushing against the rocks with bamboos. These precipitous rocks were all primitive, frequently of granite and gneiss, mixed in many places with red porphyry. In the clefts were beautiful evergreens of every tint, including giant euphorbias, and wherever a rivulet or spring glittered through the dark foliage of a ravine, it was shaded by the graceful and feathery wild date.

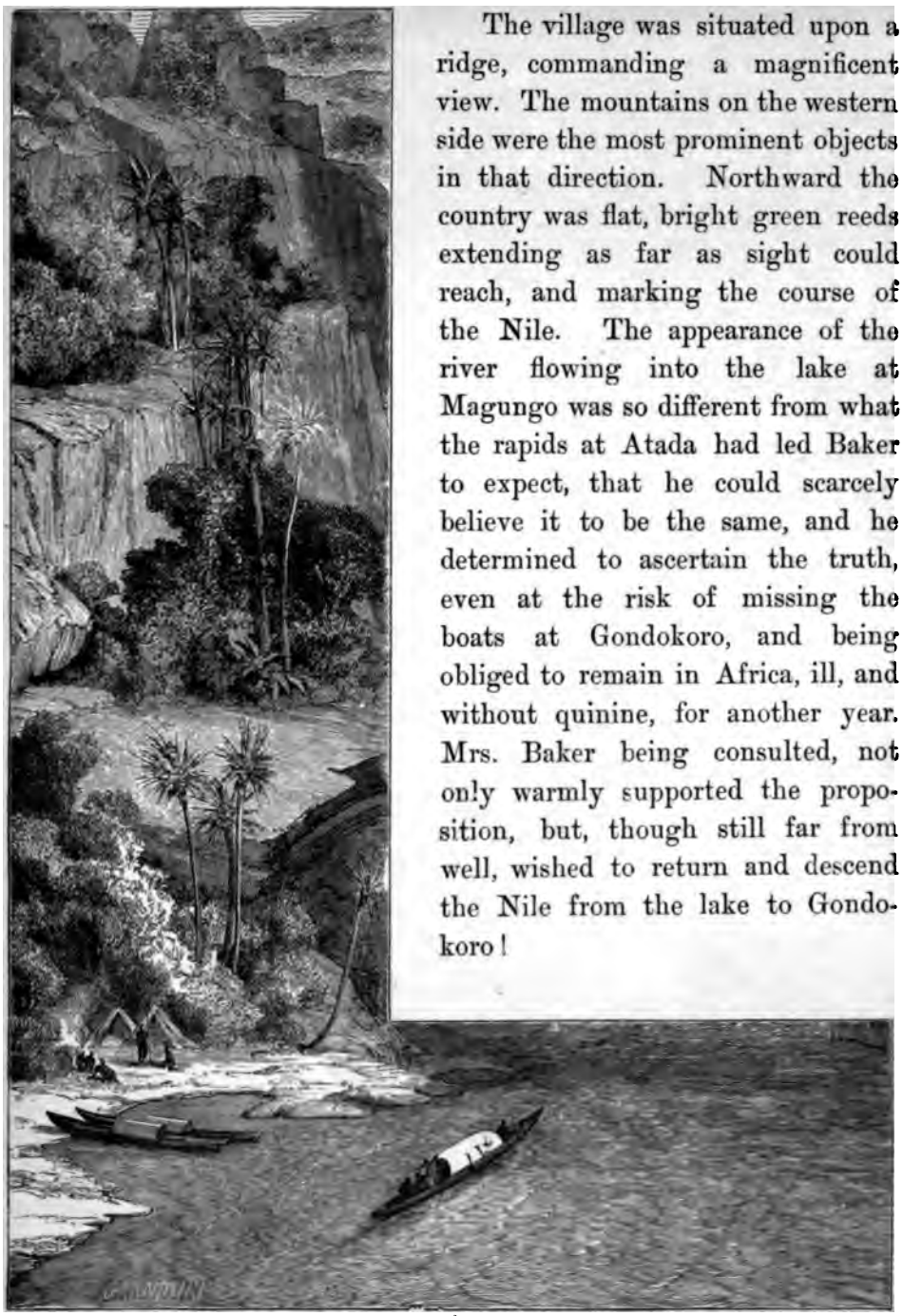
"Great numbers of hippopotami were sporting in the water. Crocodiles were exceedingly numerous, both in and out of the water; wherever a sandy beach invited them to bask, several monsters were to seen, lying in the sun. On the edge of the beach, above high-water mark, were low bushes, and from this cover the crocodiles came scuttling down into the water, frightened at the approach of the canoe."

It was dark when the boatmen grounded the canoe upon a sandy

beach, and left for the purpose, as they said, of procuring provisions at a village which they stated to be near. They did not return, and when, next morning, Baker sought the village, it proved to consist of three miserable huts, untenanted. The boatmen had deserted, and the natives had fled, to avoid being pressed into Baker's service. Every hour being of value, our traveller fitted a rudder of raw hide to the boat, rigged a large Scotch plaid upon two bamboos, and took the helm himself, the best boatman of his party using the paddles. The water was perfectly calm, but as the second boat was making very little progress, Baker was glad to run into a cove, where there was a village, and obtain assistance, which was readily given.

While they were crossing a wide bay, at the distance of about four miles from the shore, a fearful thunderstorm came on, rain descending heavily, wetting them to the skin, and drowning some fowls they had brought with them, while the waves threatened every moment to swamp the boats. They at length ran upon a sandy beach, near a village, where they made a large fire, wrapped themselves in plaids and blankets while their clothes were drying, and converted the drowned fowls into a stew. Stormy weather prevented the resumption of the voyage until the following afternoon, and during the remainder of the voyage, which occupied thirteen days, they encountered a thunderstorm every day at noon.

The adjacent country seemed to become more thinly populated, and the people more inhospitable, as they proceeded northward; but the scenery increased in beauty. On the tenth day the breadth of water began to contract rapidly, and trees became distinguishable upon the mountains westward. On the thirteenth the lake was not more than fifteen or sixteen miles across, and the shores were lined with a thick growth of reeds. It seemed to terminate northward in a reedy valley, through which the Nile flowed. Landing about a mile from Magungo, they were received by the headman and their guide, who reported the oxen in good condition. A hospitable reception awaited them, and the walk to Magungo was most enjoyable after thirteen days' boating.



The village was situated upon a ridge, commanding a magnificent view. The mountains on the western side were the most prominent objects in that direction. Northward the country was flat, bright green reeds extending as far as sight could reach, and marking the course of the Nile. The appearance of the river flowing into the lake at Magungo was so different from what the rapids at Atada had led Baker to expect, that he could scarcely believe it to be the same, and he determined to ascertain the truth, even at the risk of missing the boats at Gondokoro, and being obliged to remain in Africa, ill, and without quinine, for another year. Mrs. Baker being consulted, not only warmly supported the proposition, but, though still far from well, wished to return and descend the Nile from the lake to Gondokoro!

BELOW THE MURCHISON FALLS.

The current was scarcely perceptible at starting, but the river contracted ten miles from Magungo to half its width at its mouth, and on the second day Baker observed that some floating vegetation was moving slowly westward. On the third morning they heard the distant roar of a cataract, and after pulling up-stream for two hours, during which the rocky banks became higher and more precipitous, and the roar louder, they rounded a bend of the river, and a magnificent sight burst upon their view. "On either side the river were beautifully wooded cliffs, rising abruptly to a height of about three hundred feet. Rocks were jutting out from the intensely green foliage, and, rushing through a gap that cleft the rock, the river, contracted from a grand stream, was pent up in a narrow gorge of scarcely fifty yards in width. Roaring furiously through the rock-bound pass, it plunged in one leap of about 120 feet perpendicular into a dark abyss below. The fall of water was snow-white, which had a superb effect as it contrasted with the dark cliffs that walled the river, while the graceful palms and wild plantains perfected the beauty of the view."

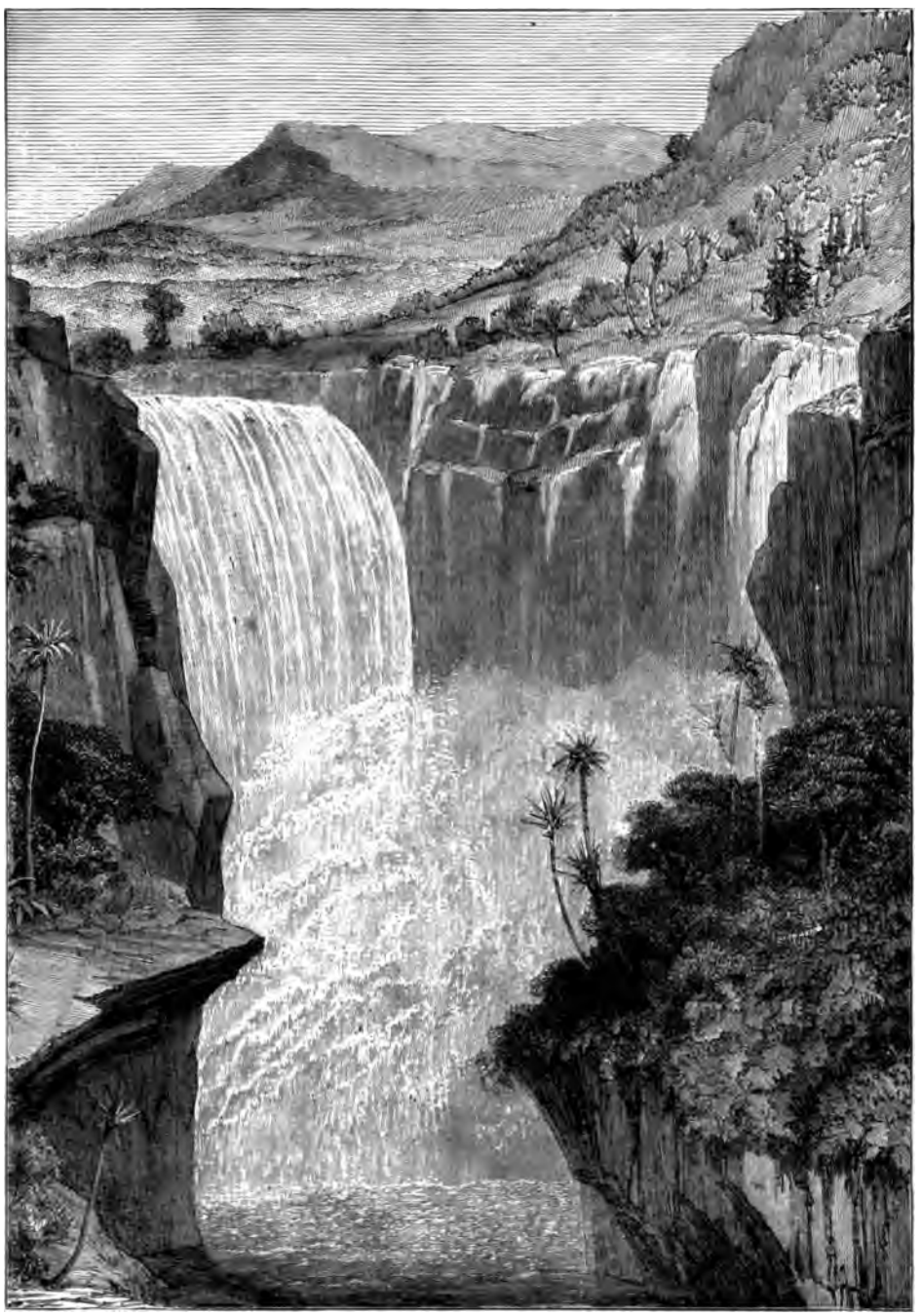
A sand-bank near the right bank was covered with crocodiles, and a hippopotamus charged the boat, and nearly upset it, sinking again before Baker could get a shot at him. Naming the fall after Sir Roderick Murchison, our traveller made a sketch of it, and then the boat was suffered to drift down the river to a deserted village on the left bank. From that point the journey was continued parallel to the river, the roar of which gave evidence of a succession of rapids, until the porters and their guide deserted them, leaving them in an unknown region, fevered, fatigued, and totally without supplies. All hope of reaching Gondokoro was abandoned; death in that solitude seemed inevitable. A store of seed found in a deserted village was ground into meal, which was made into porridge; and this, with the leaves of a wild plant which, when boiled, reminded them of spinach, a little wild honey, and an occasional fowl, was all that could be procured.

Kamrasi, being at this time about to commence hostilities with

a chief named Fowooka, was anxious to secure Baker's alliance, and several messages between them resulted, after more than two months of hardship and suffering, in the appearance of a guide and a company of porters, with orders to transport the traveller's effects to Kamrasi's capital. At the end of five day's march, through a country devastated by Fowooka, who had retreated on the advance of Kamrasi, they reached the latter's quarters at Kisoona, where Baker learned, to his surprise, that the chief to whom he had previously been introduced as Kamrasi was really that potentate's brother, the king having been too timid to show himself! The latter is described as "a remarkably fine man, tall and well-proportioned, with a handsome face of a dark brown colour, but a peculiarly sinister expression."

As long as Kamrasi indulged the hope of gaining Baker as an ally, the latter was well supplied with provisions; but this hope vanished with our traveller's expression of his resolve not to participate in the quarrel, and the king became less friendly. Fowooka was defeated, but Baker could not proceed without the goodwill and assistance of Kamrasi; and an invasion from the south following close upon the latter's victory, the traveller's stay at Kisoona threatened to be of long duration. The advance of the new enemy obliged Kamrasi to fall back upon Foweera, however, and his brother then aided Baker to move in the same direction. Marching over an undulating country, where forest and swamp alternated, they reached Deang, thirteen miles S.W. of Foweera; but they were not to rest there, for the enemy's drums startled them soon after their arrival, and they had to abandon their luggage and make a push for Foweera during the night.

It was a moonlight night, but the tall rank grass threw its shadow upon the narrow path, and the guides, upon reaching a point at which the path divided into three, confessed that they did not know which was the right one. To add to the perplexity, the occupants of a few huts near the fork roads informed Baker that the country in front was occupied by the enemy. Their



MURCHISON FALLS.

camp being eastward, Baker turned into a path that led northward, and at five o'clock in the morning reached Foweera. Here he remained until the 23rd of September, when, having been joined on the 20th by Ibrahim and his party, a move was made to a village within half a mile of the river which flows from the Victoria lake into the great inland sea discovered by Baker.

In consequence of Ibrahim and his men engaging to assist Kamrasi against the invaders (who were driven back), a northward movement was not made until the middle of November, when the quantity of ivory in camp was so great as to require seven hundred porters to carry the tusks and the provisions required for five days' march through an uninhabited country. Several months were passed at Shooa, as the Turks were making razzias upon the country for slaves and cattle, and Baker could not proceed alone. Resuming the journey in February, the Asua was crossed a quarter of a mile above its junction with the Nile. A day or two afterwards they were attacked by a large force of natives, who were easily repulsed, being armed only with bows and arrows.

They were now upon a good road, and the country was beautifully diversified with tamarind and other large trees. Gondokoro was entered in triumph, with the British flag mounted on a fine straight bamboo, and much hurrahing and firing of muskets. The Turks marched out to meet them with the Ottoman flag flying, and received them with a salute of many guns, so that the lovers of noise must have been immensely gratified. Thence our travellers sailed down the Nile to Khartoum, which was reached at sunset on the 5th of May. All the European population turned out to meet them, as they had long been given up for lost.

Famine and plague had been in the land, and murrain had swept off the camels, obliging the travellers to wait in that wretched capital of the Soudan until the river should rise sufficiently to enable boats to pass the cataracts. Two months passed before they could continue the voyage to Berber, at which place they succeeded in procuring camels

through the dense jungle by the easiest way, without any regard to its course being in the right direction. In pursuing this devious track, Livingstone and his party had to cut their way through with axes to enable the camels to pass under the branches of trees, and

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

avoid the impediments presented by the rope-like climbing and trailing plants that festooned them.

In September he was within view of Lake Nyassa. Crossing the mountains, he descended into the valley of the Chambezi, which at that time, misled by Portuguese writers and the similarity of name, he

believed to be the head water of the Zambesi. Continuing his journey westward, he entered the kingdom of Lunda, the ruler of which, the

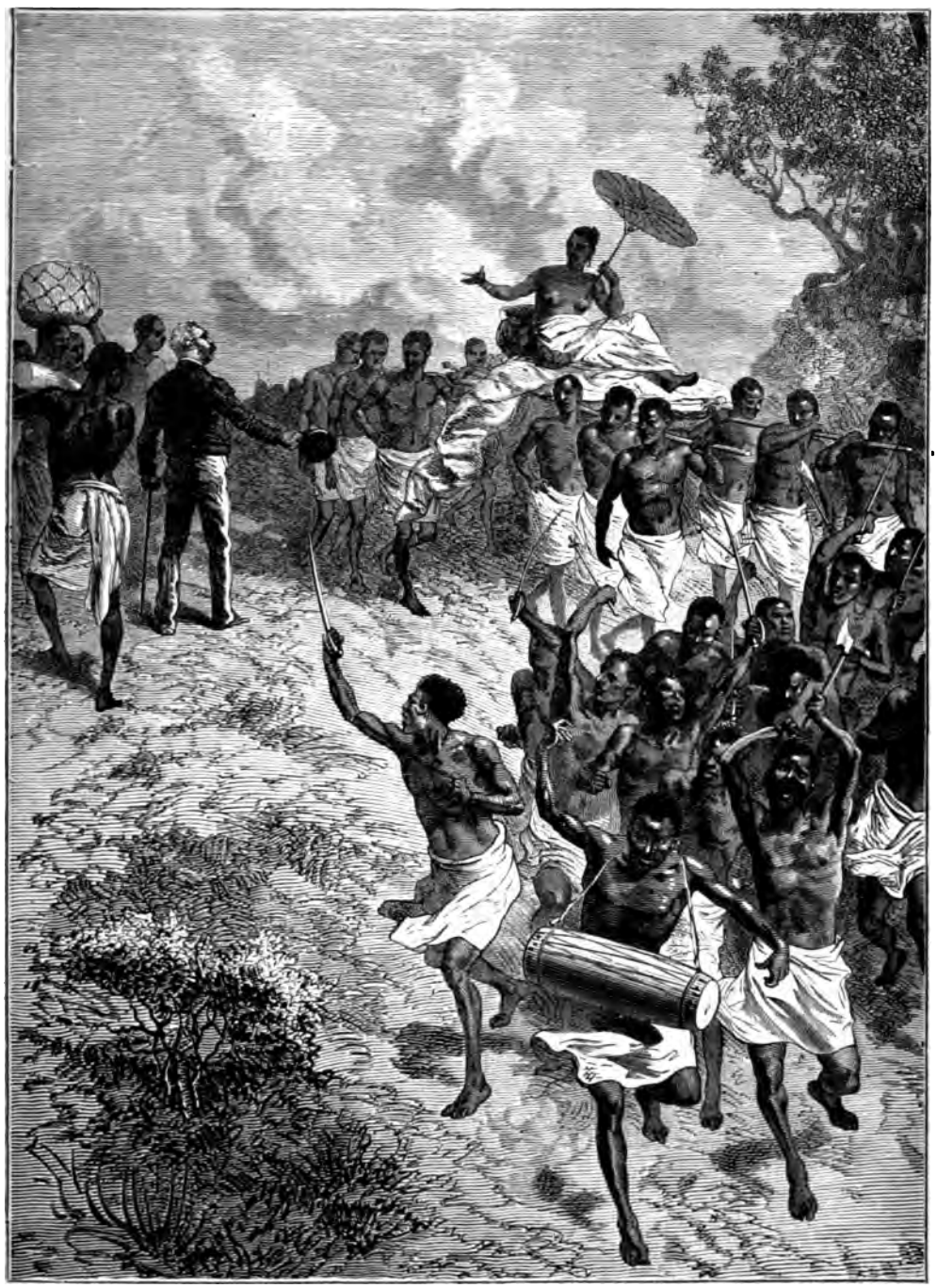
CUTTING A PATH.

famous Cazembé, is a man of considerable intelligence. This potentate, a tall, stalwart negro, clad in crimson cotton, received the traveller very hospitably, and gave orders that he should be allowed to go where he would in his country unmolested.

During their interview, the Queen of Cazembé was brought up to the house on a litter, surrounded by her body-guard. Being a fine, tall young woman, of attractive exterior, she had calculated, it would seem, upon making a powerful impression upon the white man, and had attired herself for the interview in the choicest articles of attire her wardrobe afforded. But something in her appearance caused the doctor to laugh; her majesty laughed also, perhaps at the appearance of the doctor, who was the first white man she had ever seen. The laugh was echoed by the whole band of bearers, which so disconcerted her that, instead of staying to make a conquest of the doctor, she beat an undignified retreat, followed by her body-guard.

CHUMAH.

On leaving Cazembé's capital, Livingstone proceeded in a north-easterly direction until he reached a lake which the natives called Liemba, but which he found, by tracing it northward, to be Tanganika. In November, 1867, he reached the shores of Lake Moero, which is about sixty miles in length, and, rounding its southern extremity, discovered a river, called the Luapula, flowing into it. Following this southward, he found that it proceeded from the great lake



THE QUEEN OF GAZEMBÉ AND HER BODY-GUARD.

of Bangweolo, which is as large as Tanganika; and in exploring the shores of the lake he found the Chambezi flowing into it, and thus discovered that it was not the Zambesi, as he had at first supposed.

He then returned to Lunda, and rested some time with the hospitable monarch of that country. Again resuming his wanderings, he was deserted by all his followers, except two, even the faithful Chumah, whose portrait is given on another page, being among the deserters. They repented, however, and returned to his service; and in March, 1869, he reached Ujiji. After resting there three months, he crossed over to Uguhra, on the western shore of Tanganika, and thence accompanied a trading party to Bambarre, where he was detained six months by ulcerated feet. As soon as he was able to travel again, he set off in a northerly direction, and after several days reached a broad river called the Lualaba. Its course was winding, but with great perseverance he traced it into the long narrow lake of Kamolondo. Then he turned southward, and traced the river up to the foot of Lake Moero. Turning northward again, he followed the river through all its numerous bends to within four degrees of the equator. He heard of another lake farther north, into which it was said to run; and was led by this northward course to the conclusion that he had discovered the head waters of the Nile in the Chambezi and the Lualaba. He was destitute of means for farther explorations, however, and retraced his steps to Ujiji.

So long a time had now elapsed since any news of the gallant old man had been received in England that much anxiety was felt as to his fate, not only in this country, but throughout the civilised world. Mr. Bennett, proprietor of a New York newspaper, seized the opportunity that thus presented itself, and commissioned one of his roving correspondents, the now famous Stanley, to lead an expedition into the wilds of Central Africa in search of Livingstone. Stanley reached Zanzibar in the first week of 1871, and a month later left that place, accompanied by Farquhar and

Shaw, who had held the rank of mates in the mercantile marine, an Arab named Selim, who was to serve as interpreter, six natives who had travelled with Captain Speke, and eighteen other negroes. On another page portraits of two of Speke's followers are given, namely, Mbarak Mombay, commonly called Bombay, and Malruki, who had been Captain Burton's valet.

Landing at Bagamoyo, twenty-five miles south of Zanzibar, he was there detained several weeks by the usual difficulty of procuring porters; but at length a start was made for the interior, all engaged in the expedition in the highest spirits. The route pursued had never been trodden by white men before, and for several days presented alternate tracts of jungle and swamp. Then the party entered upon a verdant plain, backed by distant mountains. But the prospect soon changed; the grassy plain was succeeded by extensive reedy swamps, intersected by numerous shallow streams. His followers, too, European as well as native, gave Stanley considerable trouble, of which an instance may be quoted.

Stanley was waiting for Shaw, who was leading a caravan with supplies. Food being scarce in the camp, and Shaw not arriving, he sent a message to him, requiring him to come on with all the speed he could; but time passed, and the caravan arrived not. Stanley then set out to meet it, and thus describes Shaw's order of march:—"Stout burly Chowereh carried the cart on his head, having found that carrying it was easier than drawing it. The sight was such a damper to my regard for it as an experiment, that the cart was wheeled into the reeds and there left. The central figure was Shaw himself, riding at a gait which rendered it doubtful whether he or his animal felt most sleepy. Upon expostulating with him for keeping the caravan so long waiting when there was a march on hand, he said he had done the best he could; but as I had seen the solemn pace at which he rode, I felt dubious about his best endeavours, and requested him, if he could not mend his pace, to dismount and permit the donkey to proceed to camp, that it might be loaded for the march."

SHAW'S MARCH.

Wooded valleys succeeded, and in the first week of June the expedition entered the region of Uyanzi, where, says Stanley, "the scenery was much more picturesque than any we had yet seen since leaving Bagamoyo. The ground rose into grander waves, hills cropped out here and there, great castles of syenite appeared, giving a strange and weird appearance to the forest." Unyanyembe was reached a few days afterwards, but then came many troubles; many of the men were prostrated by sickness, many more deserted, and the invasion of the country by the redoubtable Mirambo added to the difficulties by which Stanley was beset. Farquhar first, and then Shaw, were left behind, in the care of friendly chiefs, weary and sick, and it was not until September that Stanley was able to leave Unyanyembe for Ujiji.

"We ascended," says Stanley, "a ridge bristling with syenite boulders of massive size, appearing above the forest—an illimitable forest, stretching in grand waves far beyond the ken of vision; ridges, forest-clad, rising gently one above another until they receded in the dim purple distance, with a warm haze floating above them, which, though clear enough in our neighbourhood, became impenetrably blue in the far distance. Woods, woods, woods, one above another, rising, falling, and receding—a very leafy ocean. The horizon at all points presents the same view. There may be an indistinct outline of a hill far away, or a taller tree than the rest conspicuous in its outlines against the translucent sky; with this exception, it is the same—the same clear sky dropping into the depths of the forest, the same outlines, the same forest, the same horizon, day after day, week after week."

Early in October the expedition entered upon what Stanley calls "a grand, noble expanse of park-land, whose glorious magnificence and vastness of prospect, with a far-stretching carpet of verdure, darkly flecked here and there by miniature clumps of jungle, was one of the finest scenes in Africa." Large game was plentiful, herds of zebras, buffaloes, giraffes, and antelopes roaming in every direction over the grassy plain, so that the travellers were now abundantly supplied with

food. Farther on, where the undulations swelled into hills and valleys, and rivers rendered the latter swampy, elephants and rhinoceri were seen for the first time. Leopards were occasionally seen, and lions roared at night around the camp. Winding along the

BOMBAY AND MALRU'KI.

base of the Kasera mountains, they crossed the lofty ridge which bounds the depression of Imrera on the west and north, and on the 29th "were in view of the sublimest but ruggedest scene we had yet beheld in Africa. The country was cut up in all directions by deep, narrow ravines, trending generally toward the north-west, while on either side rose enormous square masses of naked rock (sandstone),

with but little vegetation anywhere visible, except it obtained a precarious tenure in the fissured crown of some hill top, or at the base of the scarps which everywhere lifted their fronts to our view."

The Malagarazi was crossed on the 2nd of November, and on the following day news that Livingstone was at Ujiji was received from a negro caravan coming from that direction, and Stanley immediately pushed on with renewed vigour. On the 10th, a silvery gleam seen between the trees afforded the first glimpse of Lake Tanganika; but several hours elapsed before they looked down upon Ujiji, embowered among graceful palms. Then the American flag was unfurled, guns were fired, and as the expedition marched into the village the inhabitants, Arabs and negroes of many tribes, swarmed out to meet them.

"Good morning, sir," said a voice from the black crowd, and Stanley, looking round in surprise, saw a joyous-looking negro, wearing a white turban and a long white shirt.

"Who the mischief are you?" the astonished traveller asked.

"I am Susi, the servant of Dr. Livingstone," was the reply.

"Is Dr. Livingstone here?"

"Yes, sir."

"Are you sure?"

"Sure, sir; I leave him just now."

"Good morning, sir," said another voice.

"Hallo!" said Stanley. "Is this another one?"

"Yes, sir," said another ebony figure.

"Well, what is your name?"

"My name is Chumah, sir."

"And is the doctor well?"

"Not very well, sir."

"Now, you Susi, run and tell the doctor I am coming."

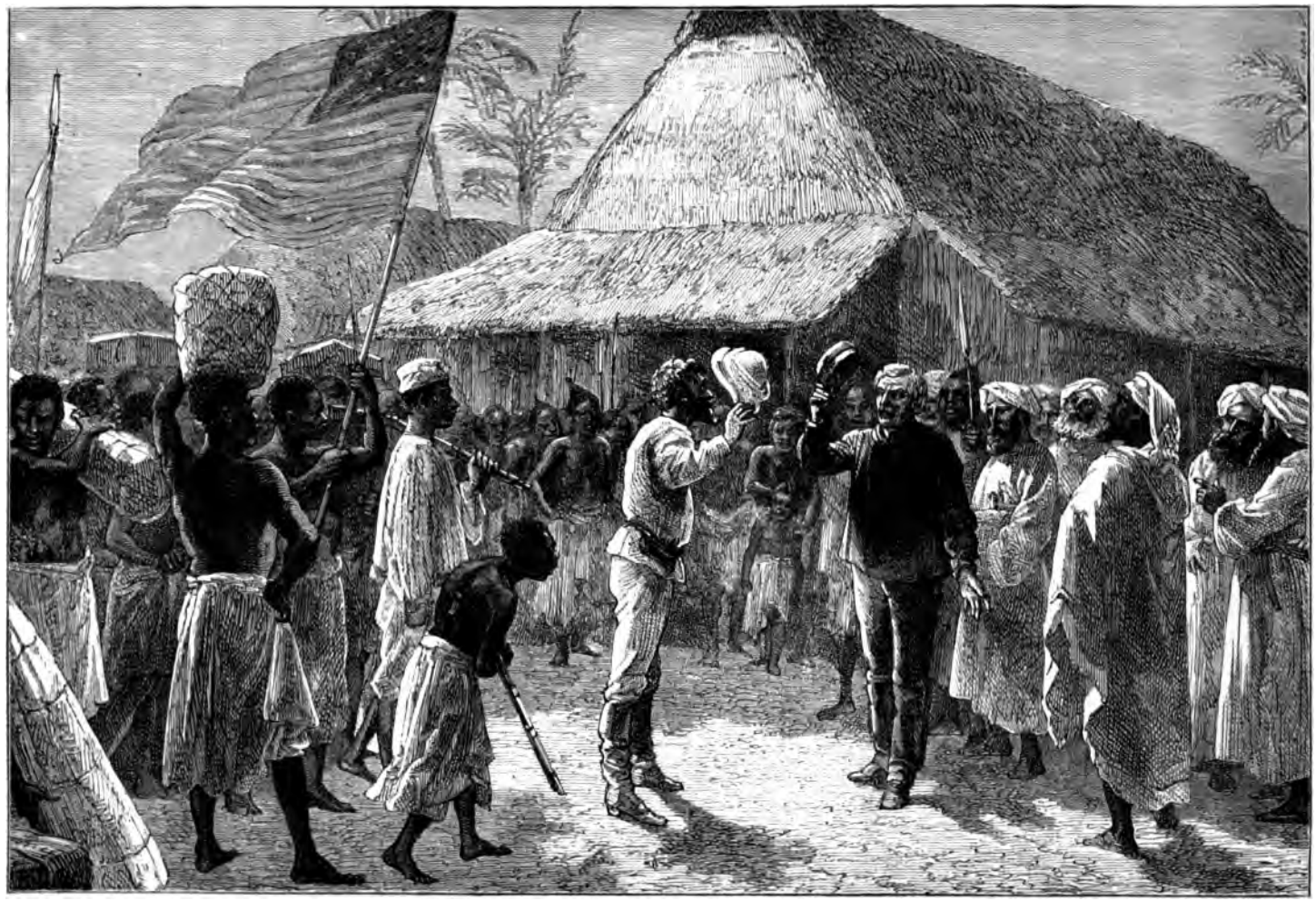
"Yes, sir." And off rushed Susi.

Proceeding through a momently increasing crowd, Stanley met Susi again, breathless with running. He had told the doctor that a white man was coming, but when Livingstone, too much surprised to

conceive such a visit possible, asked the traveller's name, Susi had no answer to give him. The news had spread, however, and the Arab magnates of the place gathered under the verandah of Livingstone's house to discuss the matter and await the stranger's arrival.

"I pushed back the crowd," says Stanley, "and walked down a living avenue of people, until I came in front of the semi-circle of Arabs, in the front of which stood the white man. As I advanced I noticed he was pale, looked wearied, had a grey beard, wore a blue cap with a faded gold band round it, had on a red-sleeved waistcoat, and a pair of grey tweed trousers. I would have run to him, only I was a coward in the presence of such a mob—would have embraced him, only he being an Englishman I did not know how he would receive me; so I walked deliberately to him, took off my hat and said, 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume?' 'Yes,' said he, with a smile, lifting his cap slightly. I replace my hat on my head, and he puts on his cap, and we grasp hands, and I say, 'I thank God, doctor, I have been permitted to see you.' He answered, 'I feel thankful that I am here to welcome you.' I turn to the Arabs, take off my hat to them in response to the saluting chorus of *yambos* I receive, and the doctor introduces them to me by name."

The Arabs, with the delicacy of true politeness, soon left the two Europeans together, and then Stanley handed to Livingstone a bag of letters which had been lying for months at Unyanyembe, and the doctor had many questions to ask, and so the afternoon and the evening passed. Next day they talked of Livingstone's explorations and discoveries, and before a week had elapsed an excursion upon the lake was planned. One morning they embarked in a large canoe, lent by one of the Arab gentlemen of the place, and steered northward, keeping close to the shore, "with a range of hills, beautifully wooded and clothed with green grass, sloping abruptly, almost precipitously, into the depths of the fresh-water sea, towering immediately above us, and as we rounded the several capes or points, roused expectations of some new wonder, or some exquisite picture. Nor were we disappointed. The wooded hills, with wealth of beautiful trees, many of



"DR. LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME?"

which were in bloom, exhaling an indescribable sweet fragrance, lifting their heads in varied contour, interested us considerably; and the pretty pictures at the head of the bays evoked many an exclamation of admiration. From Bagamoyo to Ujiji I had seen nothing to compare to them—these fishing settlements under the shade of palms and plantains, banians, and mimosa, with cassava gardens to the right and left of palmy forests, and patches of luxuriant grain looking down upon the quiet bay."

The northern shores of the lake were flat, with many reed-beds, and crocodiles were numerous, though on the southern portion they were seldom seen. Skirting these marshy shores, the explorers reached the western side of the lake, which rose much more loftily and precipitously than the eastern. On the 12th of December they regained Ujiji, from which they had been absent twenty-eight days. Livingstone then commenced writing letters, and copying memoranda of his explorations and discoveries into his journal, which, with the letters, Stanley was to take to England on his return. "I sketched him," says the latter, "while sitting in his shirt-sleeves in the verandah, with his diary on his knee; and the likeness on the other page is an admirable portrait of him, because the artist who has assisted me has, with an intuitive eye, seen the defects in my own sketch, and by this I am enabled to restore him to the reader's view exactly as I saw him, as he pondered on what he had witnessed during his long marches."

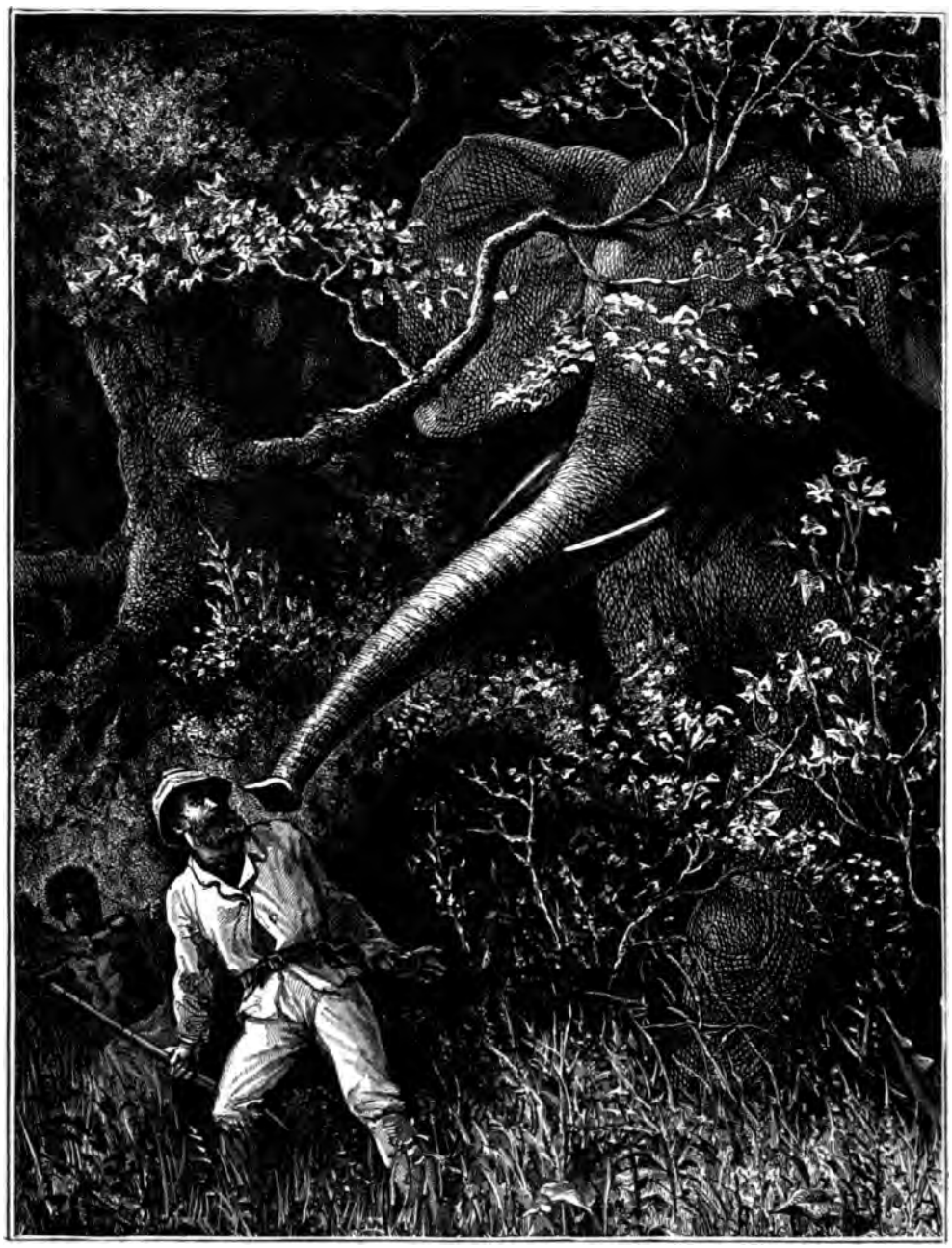
Livingstone and Stanley left Ujiji in company on the 27th with the British and American flags waving at the prows of the two large canoes lent them by the friendly Arabs. Skirting the eastern shore in a southward direction, the travellers landed at Urimba, and, after waiting to be joined by those of their followers who had gone by land, started up the valley of the Loajeri for Unyanyembe. It was soon found that the guide knew nothing about the road, notwithstanding his voluble assurances that he was well acquainted with the topography of all of the surrounding country. Stanley therefore put himself at the head

of the caravan, and led a due easterly course, as indicated by the compass.

One day, about a fortnight after their departure from Ujiji, and when food was becoming scarce, Stanley took his rifle and strolled up a picturesque ravine in quest of game. Advancing through thick forest, he suddenly found himself confronted with a huge elephant. "Methought," says the traveller, "when I saw his trunk stretched forward, like a warning finger, that I heard a voice say, '*Siste, venator!*' But whether it did not proceed from my imagination—no, I believe it proceeded from Kalulu, who must have shouted 'Lo, an elephant! an elephant, my master!' for the young rascal had fled as soon as he witnessed the awful colossus in such close vicinage. Recovering from my astonishment, I thought it prudent to retire also. As I looked behind, I saw him waving his trunk, which I understood to mean, 'Good bye, young fellow! It is lucky for you you went in time, for I was going to pound you to a jelly.'"

Tracks of animals were frequently observed, but, it being the rainy season, the game was scattered, and none could be procured. Persistently holding an easterly course, Stanley led the way over ridge after ridge, seeing rivers foaming and brawling through narrow beds that in summer were dry, and on the ninth day of the march saw Magdala Mount, bearing north-east, and knew that they were approaching Imrera. Rain had fallen every day, and a veil of grey haze hung over the forest. Mushrooms were abundant, and for the last day or two constituted the travellers' only food. Arrived at Imrera, the natives crowded around them with supplies and congratulations; but they halted only a day there, and on the 19th two zebras fell to Stanley's rifle, and the caravan was again joyous.

On the 31st they met a caravan on its way from Unyanyembe to Ujiji, and learned the death of Shaw at the former place, the result of fever, rendered fatal by intemperance. The Gombe was reached on the 7th of February, and they camped near one of its largest lakes, which is several miles in length, and swarms with hippopotami and crocodiles. Here numerous imprints of lions' feet



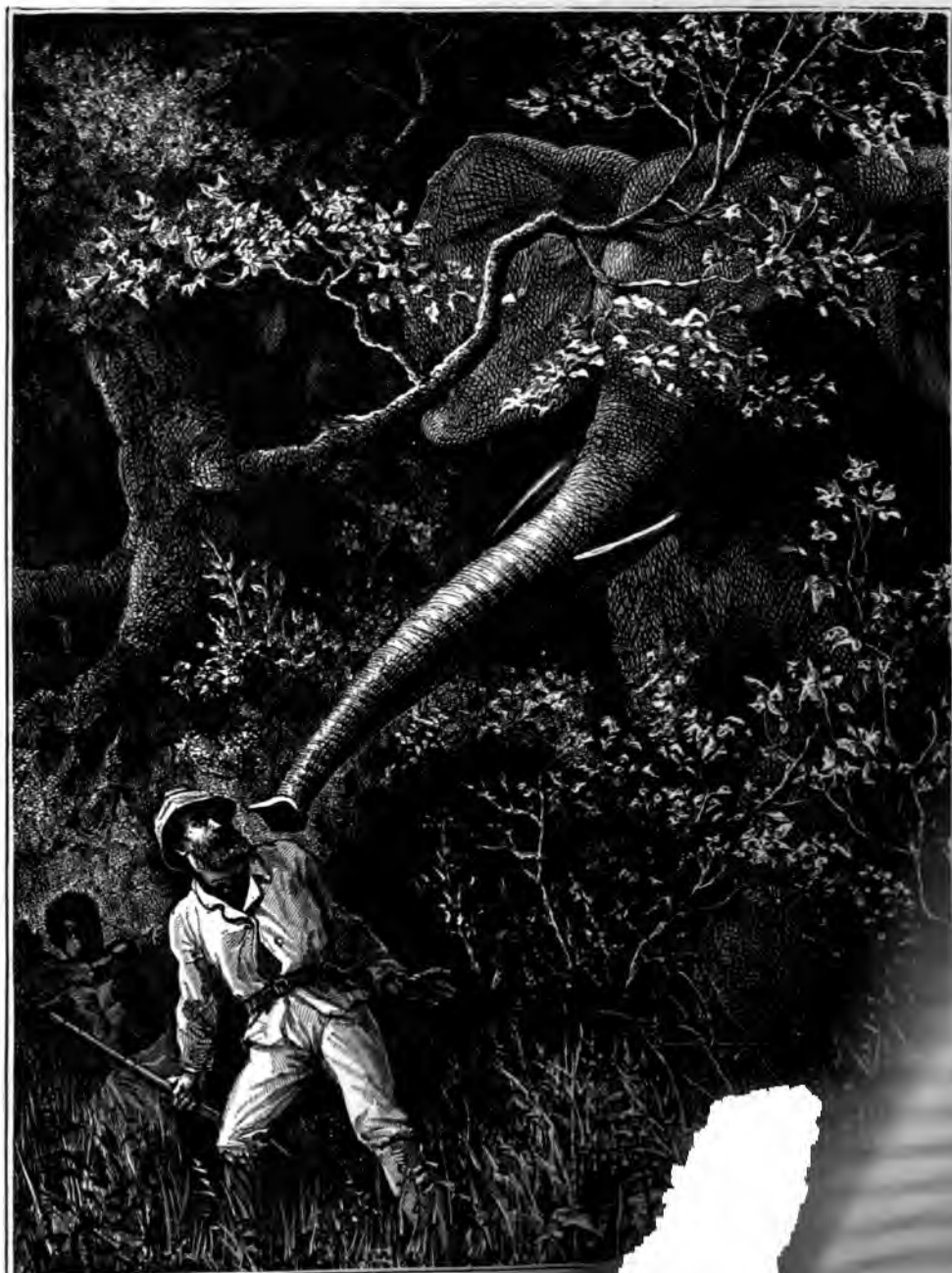
STANLEY AND THE ELEPHANT.

were observed, besides those of elephants, rhinoceri, hogs, and antelopes; and on the following day, while looking for game, Stanley was startled by the roaring of three lions, apparently close at hand. Instinctively cocking his rifle, he glanced keenly around, and detected, not the lions, but a large antelope, which stood trembling, as if dreading the fatal spring of the forest lords. Stanley fired, and the antelope gave a tremendous bound, and rushed into the forest, where, though wounded, as shown by its bloody trail, it disappeared. The report seemed to have scared the lions, for they were not seen or heard again.

Unyanyembe was reached on the 18th of February, and the valley of Khiwhara entered with flags flying and guns firing. Stanley's first act was to raise a monument over the grave of Shaw. Fifty men were engaged for two days in bringing rocks to the spot, with which a cairn eight feet long and five broad was constructed, which Livingstone said would be known ever afterwards as the grave of the first white man who had died in Unyamwezi. Stanley remained in his old quarters, with Livingstone as his guest, until the 14th of March, when they separated; the latter resolved not to leave Africa until the mystery of the Nile sources was finally cleared up, and the former resumed his return journey to Zanzibar.

On the 27th, when the expedition was encamped in the shade of a group of colossal baobabs, they were startled by the bellowing of war-horns, and at first thought that an attack was about to be made on the camp. It soon became known, however, that the alarm was on account of the rumoured incursion of an unfriendly tribe. Stanley thus describes the scene which this alarm preluded:—

"The men rushed to their villages, and in a short time we saw them arrayed in full fighting costume. Feathers of the ostrich and the eagle waved over their fronts, or the mane of the zebra surrounded their heads; their knees and ankles were hung with little bells; joho robes floated behind, from their necks; spears, assegais, knob-sticks, and bows were flourished over their heads, or held in their right hands, as if ready for hurling. On each flank of a large body



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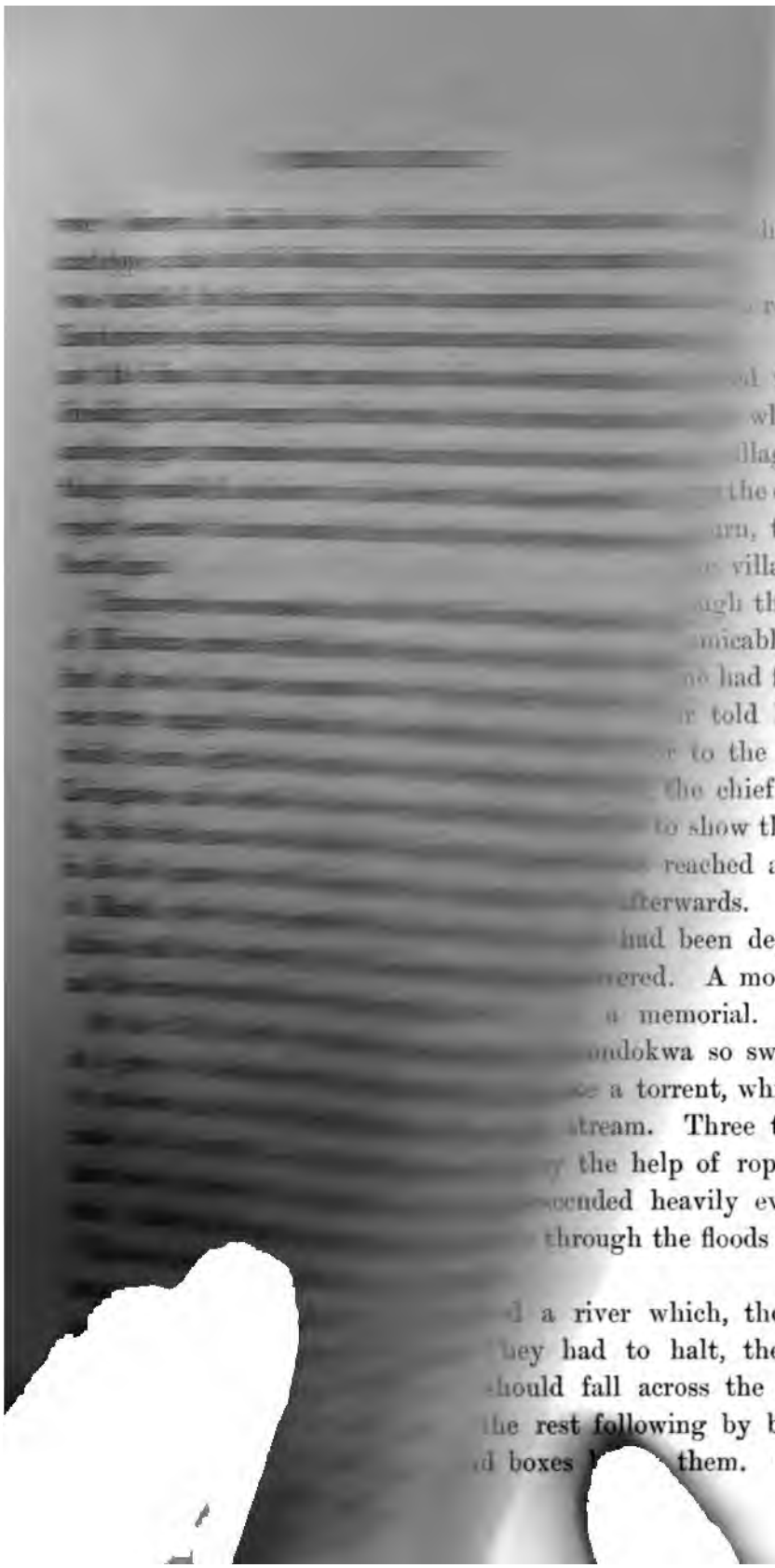

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which issued from the principal village, and which came at a uniform swinging double-quick, the ankle and knee bells all chiming in admirable unison, were a cloud of skirmishers, consisting of the most enthusiastic, who exercised themselves in mimic war as they sped along. Column after column, companies from every village, hurried past our camp, until, probably, there were nearly a thousand soldiers gone to the war." At nightfall these warriors returned from the forest. There had been no fighting, the alarm having been without foundation.

On the 30th the expedition arrived at Khonze, and halted near the village, while "Bombay," with the assistance of some friendly Wagogo travellers who had joined them, settled the customs duties, or tribute, with the chief. The Wagogos ran back to the halting-place, breathless, shouting, "Why do you halt here? Do you wish to die? These pagans will not take the tribute, but they boast that they will eat up all your cloth." Close upon their heels came the chief and his fighting men, all armed. Stanley ordered his men to load, and then strode up to the chief, and asked whether he had come to take the cloth by force, or would accept quietly what was given him. A Wanyamwezi, who had instigated the chief to make an exorbitant demand, was about to speak, but Stanley pushed him aside, and threatened to shoot him first if he was forced to fight. The chief laughed at the man's discomfiture, and in a short time he and Stanley settled the matter to their mutual satisfaction.

Two days afterwards, whilst halting near the village of Mapanga, they were surprised by a rush of forty or fifty armed men from the jungle, all whooping and yelling, and brandishing their spears, in a manner unmistakably hostile. The moment was critical. One spear thrown, one musket fired, would have been the signal for an onslaught, the prelude, perhaps, of a massacre. The opposing forces were numerically equal; but Stanley knew that the whole of his men could not be relied upon for a fight, and prudence united with humanity in suggesting an effort to settle the cause of quarrel peacefully. Without arising from the bale on which he was seated,

he desired his flag-bearer to inquire whether the chief of the Khonze came to rob them.

"No," replied the chief. "We don't want to rob you, or to stop the road; but we want the tribute."

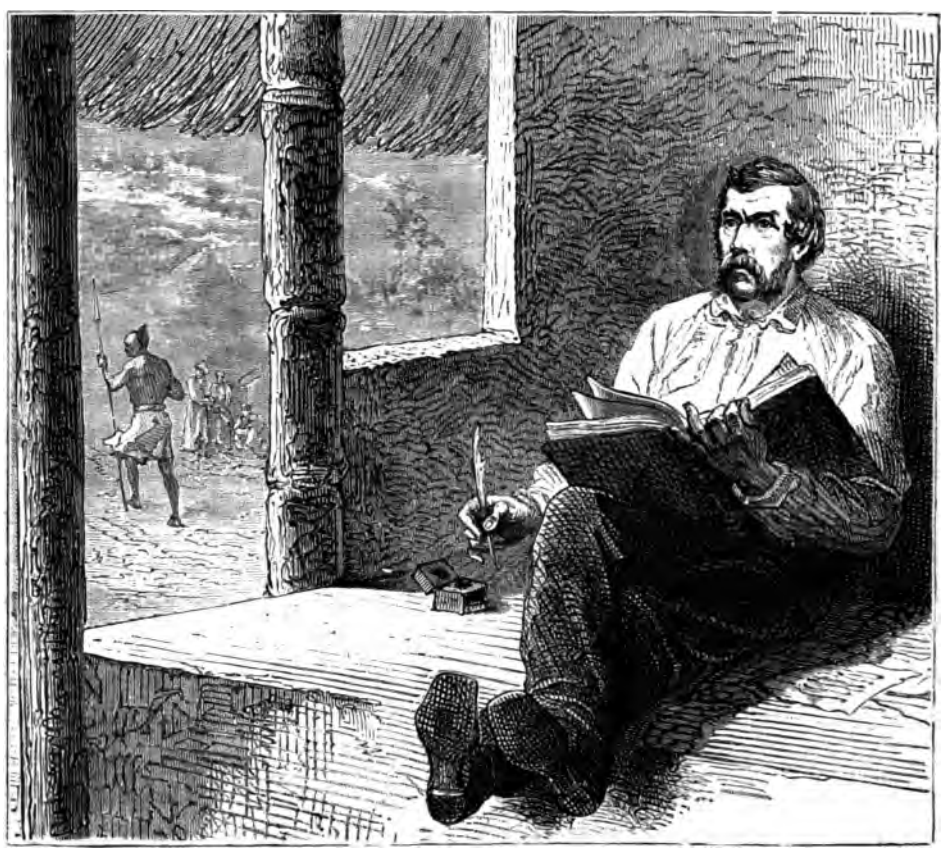
"Don't you see us halted, and a bale opened to send it?" said Stanley, directing his attention to a bale of goods which had just been opened. "We have halted so far from your village that, when the tribute is settled, we may proceed on our way, as the day is yet young."

The chief laughed, and explained, in his turn, that, as he and his men were cutting wood for a new fence for the village, a lad brought the news that a caravan was about passing through the country without stopping. The tribute was then settled amicably, and the chief begged Stanley to make rain for him, as none had fallen for months, and his crops were suffering. Our traveller told him that, though white men were very clever, much superior to the Arabs, they could not make rain; and, though disappointed, the chief was satisfied, and accompanied the expedition some distance to show them the road.

On the 7th of April the village was reached at which Farquhar had been left, and had died a few days afterwards. The chief showed Stanley the spot on which the corpse had been deposited, but not a vestige of the remains could be discovered. A mound of stones was raised upon the spot, however, as a memorial. Continuing their journey, they found the river Mukondokwa so swelled by the rains that it swept through the valley like a torrent, while the fields were flooded, and every nullah was a stream. Three times the foaming flood was crossed at the fords by the help of ropes fastened to the trees on either bank. Rain descended heavily every day, and the drenched travellers had to wade through the floods or tramp through dripping jungles.

On the 13th they reached a river which, though narrow, was too deep to be fordable. They had to halt, therefore, and fell a tree, which they contrived should fall across the stream, and along this Stanley led the way, the rest following by bestriding the tree and pushing their bales and boxes before them. One young fellow,

who was carrying on his head the box containing Livingstone's letters and journals, impelled by excess of zeal or reckless bravado, plunged into the stream. Stanley watched him in an agony of fear. Suddenly the man, stepping into a hole, was immersed up to his



LIVINGSTONE WRITING HIS JOURNAL.

chin. "Look out!" exclaimed Stanley, pointing a revolver at him; "Drop that box and I'll shoot you!" All the men stood still, or motionless bestrode their primitive bridge, to gaze at their imperilled companion. The frightened negro was grey with fear, but, making a desperate effort, he got the precious box across in safety.

An hour afterwards they came to the river of which this stream

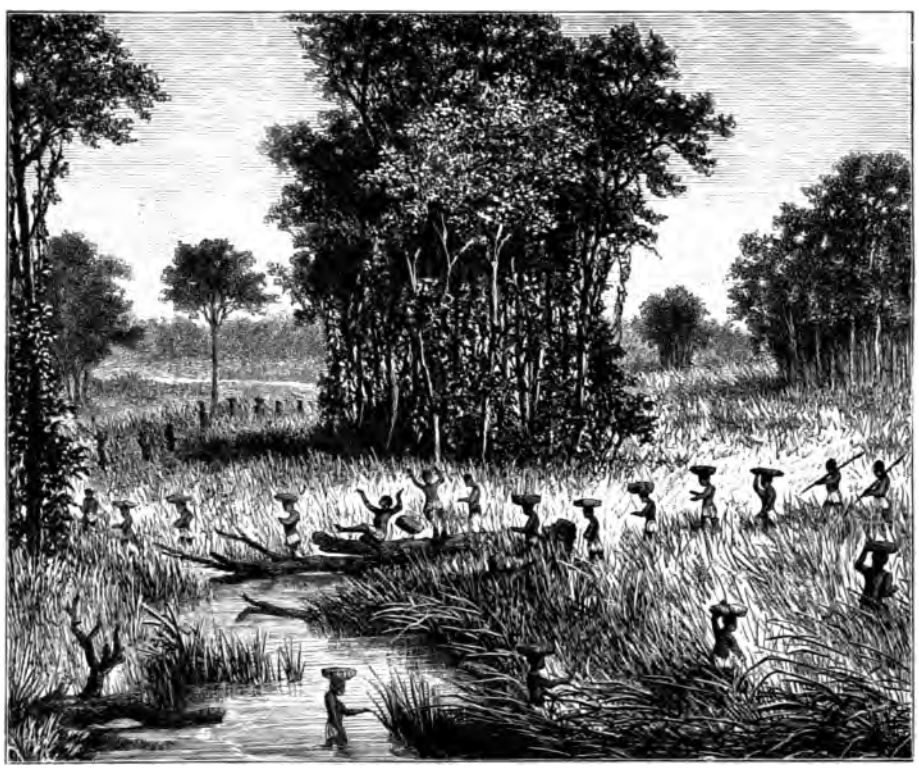
was a branch, and found it a broad flood of brown and foaming water. They constructed a raft, by cutting down four trees and lashing them together, but it sank as soon as it was launched. All their ropes were then tied together, making a line 180 feet long, one end of which was tied round a strong swimmer, who undertook

BANKS OF LAKE TANGANIKA.

to lash it to a tree on the other side. The negro, strong swimmer as he was, was carried far down the stream, but he succeeded in gaining the opposite bank, and securing the rope to a tree. By means of the rope both men and baggage were dragged through the water, the more valuable boxes being conveyed upon a sort of light hand-barrow resting upon men's shoulders.

A superficial knowledge of the physical geography of Africa scarcely prepares us for such scenes as meet the eye of the traveller

in the rainy season. "Within twenty feet of our camp," says Stanley, "was a rising river, with flat, low banks; above us was a gloomy, weeping sky; surrounding us on three sides was an immense forest, on whose branches we heard the constant pattering rain; beneath our feet was a great depth of mud, black and loathsome. Add to



CROSSING AN AFRICAN SWAMP.

these the thought that the river might overflow and sweep us to utter destruction." The strong current of the Makata, fifty yards wide, was crossed by swimming, and on the 29th the expedition was at Simbimwenni, where the flooded Ungerengeri had swept away the whole of the river wall and about fifty houses. Many of the inhabitants had been drowned, and the rest had abandoned the place, of which a hurricane had made a wreck.

The rain had now ceased, but the jungle was a pestiferous swamp, where huge snakes hung upon the branches of trees, and land-crabs, scorpions, and innumerable creeping things, swarmed upon the black mud beneath. On the 4th of May the expedition was within four miles of Bagamoyo, but that space was covered with flood-water, and they had to camp on its western margin until canoes could be brought to ferry them over. Bagamoyo was entered at sunset on the 6th, the arrival being signalised by the firing of guns and much shouting and gesticulating, after the manner of the country. Arabs and Hindoos, Beloochees and negroes, thronged about the men who had performed such a wonderful march, and when they had reached the centre of the town, Stanley was greeted and congratulated by Lieutenant Henn, of the Livingstone Relief Expedition, which was to have done what had already been accomplished by Stanley; by Mr. Oswald Livingstone, the doctor's son; and the Rev. Charles New, the missionary.

The long march was ended, and on the day after his arrival at Bagamoyo the Arab dhow which conveyed the expedition back to Zanzibar anchored in the harbour.

Mr. Stanley returned to "the dark continent" some years afterwards, and is now in that vast and wonderful region, occupied with trading projects which promise both to increase our commerce with the negro tribes of the interior, and to contribute largely to their progress in civilisation. The greater the extent to which legitimate trade in the natural products of that marvellously fertile continent is promoted, the more the dreadful traffic in slaves will be diminished, and with it the tribal wars and slave-hunting forays which have been for centuries a constant cause of bloodshed, demoralising the people and depopulating the country.

NORDENSKIÖLD'S EXPLORATION OF ARCTIC ASIA.

This most recent of the arctic voyagers was born at Helsingfors, in Finland, in 1832, and was, therefore, in the prime of life when he undertook, in 1875, the scientific direction of the explorations made at the cost of Mr. Dickson, a rich merchant of Gothenburg. A small sailing vessel, called the *Pröven*, was fitted out at Tromsö, and sailed from that port on the 8th of June, for the purpose of exploring the Kara Sea, or rather channel, which flows between Novaya Zemlya and the peninsula of Yalmal.

A contrary wind obliging the voyagers to anchor at the isle of Renö, about sixty miles to the northward of their port of departure, the opportunity was used to visit the stalactitic cavern on the east side of the island. The natives believe the cave to be the abode of evil spirits, on which account they will not go near it; but on this

IN THE CAVE OF RENÖ.

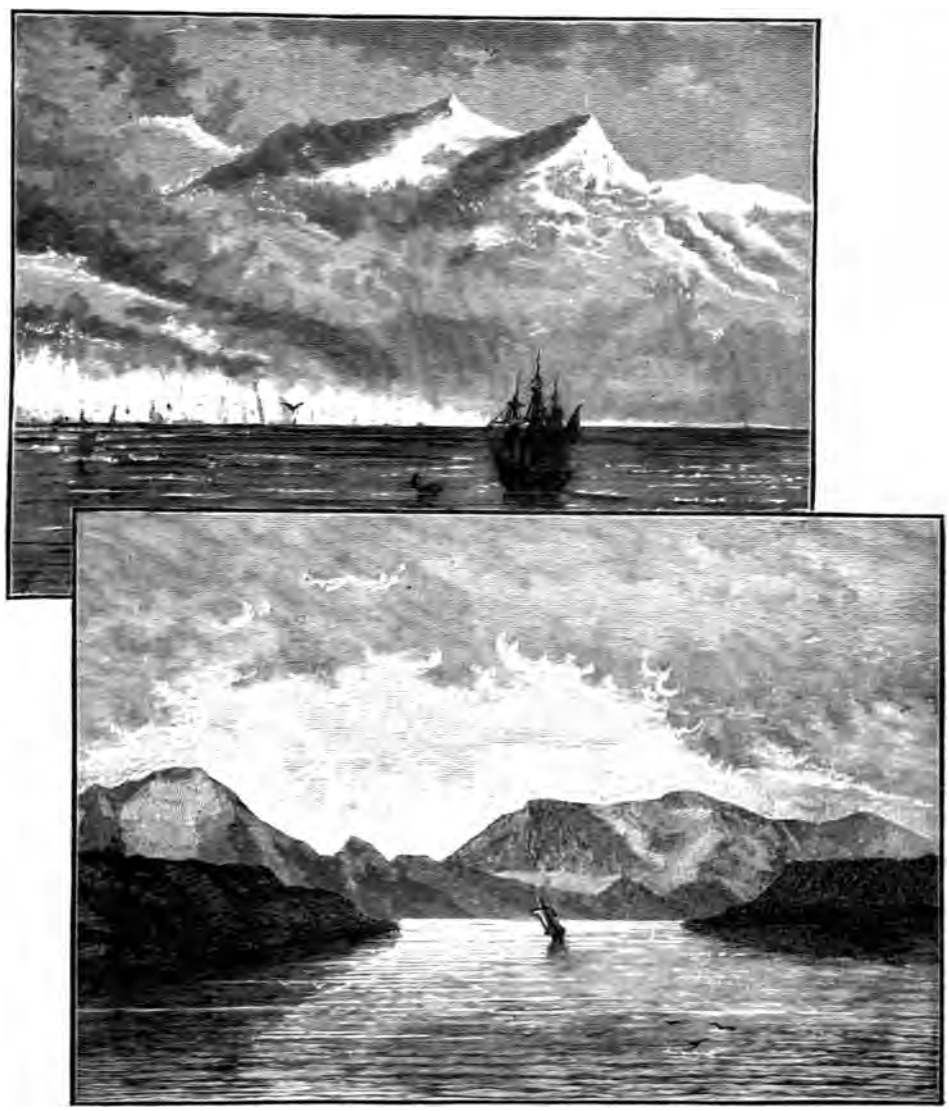
occasion they ventured into its recesses, reassured by the torches of the Norwegian seal-hunters who manned the boat, which they thought would chase the demons from their haunts. The lofty passage by which the cave was entered divided into two, both encrusted with

beautiful stalactites, which gleamed and sparkled in the light of the torches. One of the men, in attempting to detach a specimen, lost his balance, and fell into the water that flowed over the rocky floor, fortunately without sustaining any injury.

The North Cape was passed on the 17th, and the *Pröven* ran eastward, towards the channels between the southern extremity of Novaya Zemlya and the mainland. The Matyushin Channel was found to be free from ice, and the vessel ran nearly through it between the acclivities of lofty and picturesque mountains, but its eastern mouth was found to be blocked with ice, which obliged the voyagers to retrace their course, and try the more southern channels. The Yugor Strait was passed without difficulty during the early days of August, and the Kara Sea found to be free from ice as far as the eye could see.

Light winds rendered their progress slow, however, and on the 8th they were stopped altogether by a large accumulation of drift ice. Following the edge of the ice eastward, the mouth of the Yenisei was reached on the 15th, and Nordenskiöld, accompanied by two gentlemen of the scientific department and three seamen, sailed up the river in a small boat to Dudino, where they fell in with a steamer, which towed them to Yeniseisk. From that place they travelled home overland, and the *Pröven* returned to Tromsö through the Matyushin Strait.

Partly for the purpose of further scientific researches in the Kara Sea and the valley of the Yenisei, and partly as a further test of the navigability of the channels, a new expedition was fitted out in the following summer at the expense of Mr. Dickson and a wealthy Russian mine-owner named Sibiriakoff. A steamer being employed on this occasion, the Matyushin Strait was reached in five days from Tromsö, and the Kara Sea entered on the following day, no ice having been encountered. On the 12th of August the vessel was at the mouth of the Yenisei, where a low island was discovered, to which Nordenskiöld gave the name of Sibiriakoff Island, and which, strange as it may seem, had never been observed before. The season proved



NOVAYA ZEMLYA.

unfavourable for exploration, however, and Nordenskiöld returned to Tromsö.

Nordenskiöld then submitted to the King of Sweden the plan of an exploring voyage on the north coast of Asia, east of the Yenisei,

and Oscar II., who takes a warm interest in arctic explorations, at once offered to defray the cost of the expedition. A bark called the *Vega*, which had been employed in walrus hunting in the seas between Greenland and Spitzbergen, was purchased for the purpose, and placed under the command of Captain Palander, of the Swedish navy. He sailed from Karlskrona on the 22nd of June, and at Gothenburg took aboard some gentlemen of the expedition, the scientific apparatus, and two dogs and a cat. "It is an old sailor's belief," says Lieutenant Hovgaard, one of the officers, "that it is a good omen if you steal a black cat, and take it with you on a voyage. As we were going on board one evening from a party in Gothenburg, a little black cat, about two months old, came suddenly running towards us. Recollecting the superstition, I took it up, and carried it aboard the *Vega* in my coat pocket. It remained in my berth for a few days, but it very soon got accustomed to the sea, and took up its abode in the forecastle, where it slept during the day, while it ran about at night, and though it often disturbed the sailors and stole their food, it was a general favourite, and during the winter it beguiled many an hour."

The arctic circle was crossed on the 16th of July, and, running between the Lofoden Isles and the rock-bound coast of Norway, the voyagers sighted the North Cape on the 25th, and shaped their course for Novaya Zemlya. The coast of that dreary island was visible three days afterwards, and on the 30th, having passed the Kara Strait without seeing any ice, they sailed past Waigatz Island and entered the Yugor Strait. Khabarova was soon in sight, and the vessel was anchored there to complete her coaling.

Khabarova is a cluster of wooden huts and deer-skin tents; the former occupied by a few Russian families, and the latter by Samoyedes. There is a little wooden chapel, which some of the party visited. Rough as was the architecture, and small the building, the walls were covered with bas-reliefs in brass, representing scenes from the Bible and the lives of the saints, and there were two silver candelabra. From the chapel the party went to one of the Samoyede tents, in which a large iron pot hung over a fire made on the ground,

and some half-rotten boards served as a foundation for the deer-skins which formed the bed. By the pot sat an ugly old woman, whose long hair was plaited into two tails which reached the ground, and was adorned with pearl ornaments and brass figures of dogs and reindeer.

Lieutenant Hovgaard says that many of the Samoyedes are baptised, but nevertheless "continue worshipping and offering to their old heathen gods. The Russians lay no great stress upon this seeming falling-off from their faith, as they believe that the Samoyedes regard their idols as they do their own images of saints. The Samoyedes did not seem the least concerned about selling us their gods, which were very plain and rough objects, made out of a wooden block, in which were made a couple of cuts to represent mouth and nose. The most sumptuously got up were sewed up in small pieces of skin, leaving only the face uncovered."

On the following day Nordenskiöld and two of his fellow-explorers made an excursion to Waigatz Island, where one of the Russian inhabitants of Khabarova was to show them a Samoyede place of sacrifice. Ascending the steep side of a slate hill, they reached the summit of Cape Bolvanskoi, where they found over a hundred little idols stuck into the ground, which was almost covered with the skulls and bones of bears, foxes, deer, &c. The place of sacrifice was originally on the point of the cape, but on a zealous Russian priest erecting a large cross there, the Samoyedes removed it farther inland. Close to the cross is an aperture in the earth, through which the explorers looked into a cavern, the bottom of which, fifty or sixty feet below them, was level with the beach.

Next morning the *Vega* proceeded on her voyage, in company with three other vessels chartered for the Yenisei and the Lena on account of M. Sibiriakoff. Drift ice was met with north of White Island, and was with them until the 6th of August, when they anchored in Dickson Harbour, on the east side of a small island of that name, off the west coast of the peninsula of Taimir. Here they remained a few days, during which several bears and reindeer

were shot, and made the welcome addition of fresh meat to their table. Then they steamed through a narrow channel, and steered northward, presently sighting a number of small islands along the coast on their right, and which, though found on old charts, were not marked on the newer ones supplied to Captain Palander. During the following night they sailed between large masses of drift ice,

PROFESSOR NORDENSKIOLD.

which, seen through the fog, assumed a variety of fantastic forms, as it usually does during summer, partly through the influence of the sun, and partly by the action of the waves upon its softer portions.

More ice was encountered, and was observed to be less worn and broken, as they proceeded eastward. Running into the strait between Taimir Island and the coast of the peninsula of that name, they found the passage barred by ice, and anchored in a little bay, where the officers and the naturalists went ashore, the former to shoot birds, the latter to examine the geology of the country and

look for new plants. Two of the scientific gentlemen lost themselves, and did not return to the ship until nearly midnight, when they were greatly exhausted.

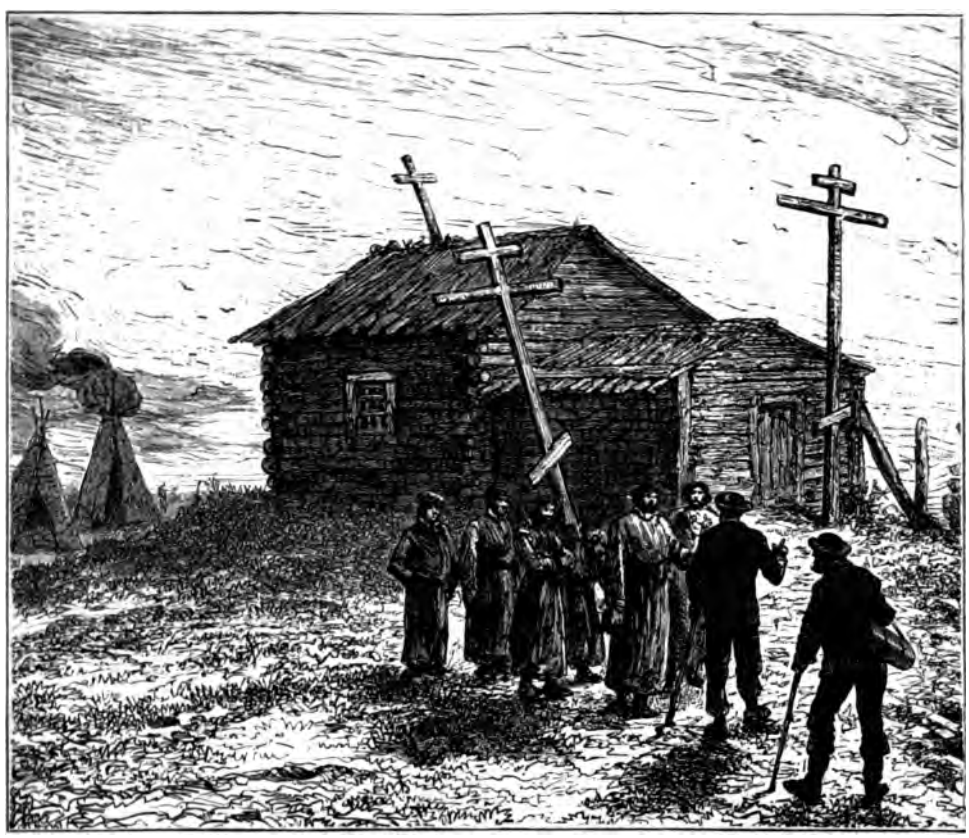
On the 18th, a westerly wind having swept out the ice, they steamed between Taimir Island and an islet to the westward, and found the sea free from ice. On the following day they anchored in a small bay west of Cape Chelyuskin, and saluted "the venerable northernmost point of the old world" with the Swedish salute

M. SIBIRIAKOFF. CAPTAIN PALANDER. MR. DICKSON.

of five guns. A bear made its appearance upon the ice that lay along the coast, and looked at the vessel with an air of surprise; but, apparently not liking the smell of the gunpowder, it turned about, and disappeared among the rocks. The rocks here were slate, and some miles inland the promontory was backed by a lofty mountain, in the hollows of which snow was still lying. Many dwarf plants were found, though the northern limit of trees is more than three hundred miles south of the cape. Several seals and walruses were seen, though the existence of animal life in that dreary and inclement region has been doubted.

Next day they sailed southward, along the east coast of Taimir Land, where walruses were abundant. The country on their right

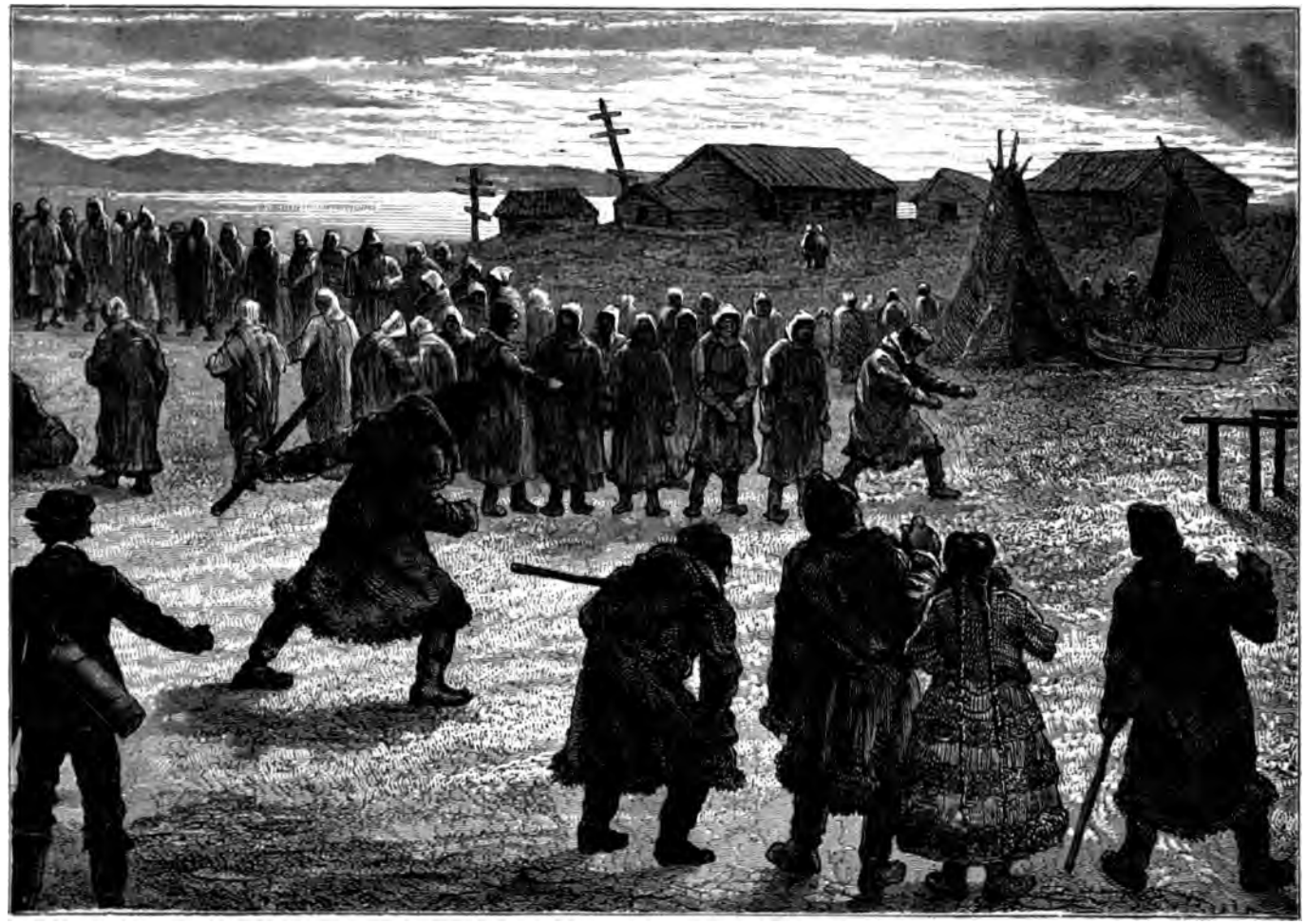
was very mountainous. A ruined hut was seen on the beach, on the spot indicated by a Russian voyager of the last century as the site of a hut in which, in 1736, he found two dogs and some fresh-baked bread. Revelation Island presently rose before them, presenting a



CHAPEL AT KHABAROVA.

precipice of 250 feet, the ledges and crannies of which afford nesting-places to millions of sea-birds. Two bears were shot here—one from the deck of M. Sibiriakoff's vessel, while swimming across the bows; the other on the beach, by the second officer of the *Vega*.

On the 27th they were off the mouth of the Lena, where the last of their companion ships was to leave them and steam up to Yakutsk. The two vessels parted at midnight, the crew of the *Vega* firing a few



SAMOYEDES OF KHABAROVA.

rockets as a parting salute, and the master of the *Lena* acknowledging the greeting by burning coloured lights. At this time the explorers were indulging the prospect of being in a Japanese port in two months, and they expressed this hope in the letters which the *Lena* was to carry to Europe on her return voyage. But it was not to be realised.

The New Siberian Islands, so celebrated for the abundance of mammoth bones and ivory found on them, were found with ice about them, and the passage between them required careful manœuvring. On the 2nd of September, when they were approaching the Bear Islands, the ice became closer, and fog came on. Lieut. Hovgaard says they "could only see the large floes at the very last moment. The first sign of an ice-floe was a luminous appearance in the fog, and the next moment it appeared like a close white vapour suddenly rising from the sea, and then the watch on the forecastle would cry out, 'Ice right ahead!' We were then so close upon it that we could scarcely avoid running into it."

The Bear Islands were passed next day, during a snow-storm, attention being especially directed to Four Pillar Island, so named by Wrangel from the four tall masses of granite, the largest fifty feet high, which rise perpendicularly from the ground. Wrangel, who discovered them sixty years ago, says that the island is "covered with blocks of porphyritic granite, which increase in size towards the top of the hill. The pillars consist of horizontal layers of five inches thickness of the same kind of stone. In two of the pillars large cracks run from the bottom upwards." He thought that these pillars, now isolated, had once been portions of a colossal rock, the softer parts of which had been crumbled away by atmospheric influences, leaving these masses standing.

The ice increasing as they steamed eastward, they ran between the pack and the land, from which they were at no time distant. On the night of the 4th some faint rays of light on the northern horizon heralded the aurora. Next day they made the acquaintance of the Chukches, natives of the coast about Cape Shelagskoi, a small, ill-

formed race, with skins of a dingy brown hue and black hair. They wear skins, like the Eskimos, whom they somewhat resemble, and the women tattoo their faces, and some their arms and shoulders, in blue lines. Cape Yakan was passed on the 7th in comparatively open water, but nothing was seen of the land northward of which Wrangel heard from some Chukches, and which was supposed to be the same seen by Captain Kellett from Herald Island. Since Nordenskiöld's voyage, however, Wrangel Land has been circumnavigated by the boats of the American steamer which was sent to the relief of the *Jeannette*.

Cape Irkaipi, where Cook turned back in 1778, and which that explorer called the North Cape of Asia, was reached on the 12th; and there the *Vega*, being stopped by ice, was anchored in a little bay, on the low sandy shore of which sixteen Chukch tents were pitched. The six days that the vessel lay here were devoted to studying the manners, customs, and superstitions of the Chukches, and making excursions over the snow-clad hills in the neighbourhood in the dog-sledges of the natives. The dogs are strong, hardy animals, closely resembling wolves, to which they are undoubtedly related, if they are not, as some think, actually descended from tamed wolves.

Ice and fog, with an occasional glimpse of Chukch tents, continued without variation until the 26th, when the explorers beheld a grand aurora, which is thus described by Lieutenant Hovgaard:—"About ten at night a bow of light began to ascend on the northern horizon; more bows appeared, and slowly approached the zenith, decreasing in brightness as they came nearer, but growing brighter as they again went down towards the southern horizon. The light was perfectly white. The whole sky was soon covered with bows, which stood out in brilliant relief against the dark sky, the stars shining all the time through the light. Towards midnight, in a broad band, which passed through the zenith, light in all the colours of the rainbow moved in a wave-like motion backward and forward. Suddenly the band became feebler, and from the zenith a number of yellowish-white rays shot out in every direction. In a quarter of an hour the former bows appeared again, sank slowly down to the north, and disappeared. While this

grand spectacle lasted, no sound from the light was heard; the deep silence was only interrupted by the washing of the waves against the ice, which lay glittering in the light of the aurora."

Two days afterwards the *Vega* was frozen in, the explorers little

SALUTING CAPE CHELYUSKIN.

thinking then that they were destined to remain there for ten months. The flat beach was backed by low downs, covered with the singular marsh plants which in this country are called horse-tails. On the downs were eight Chukch tents, near a frozen lake, upon which the boys and girls were enjoying themselves, while those of the men who had not gone aboard the ship were loitering about, smoking their pipes. Buoyed by the assurances of the natives that the wind would

change in a few days, and set them free, the explorers proceeded to enjoy themselves. A skating-club was formed, and a "grand gala night" got up, the rink being lighted by coloured lanterns, and music poured from a barrel organ by one of the officers, while their companions sped over the ice. When snow began to fall, the rink was turned into a pipi alley, and skating succeeded by the Swedish game of skittles.

On the 6th of October an elderly Chukch drove down to the ship, and produced from between a couple of boards some documents in Russian, sealed with official seals, one of which he asked M. Nordquist, the interpreter of the expedition, to read. It was as follows:— "Vassili Menka is hereby appointed chief of all Chukches on the Chukch Peninsula." The old man nodded, repeated "Menka," and pointed to himself. Invited into the mess-room, he explained that the Chukches were governed by himself and another chief, who act as intermediaries between the natives and the Russian officials who attend the yearly fairs to collect the taxes. Seeing a portrait of King Oscar in the mess-room, he bowed to it, and made the sign of the cross, apparently believing it to represent a Russian saint. He promised to convey the ship's letters to Irkutsk, and on the following day Hovgaard and Nordquist took the mail to him, with an open letter addressed to the Governor-General of Siberia. Menka seemed to think the occasion a good one for impressing the Chukches with a due sense of his importance. Gathering them about him, he unfolded the letter, and read it aloud in his own language. "It is impossible," says Lieutenant Hovgaard, "to describe the sight of the Chukches, who, with open mouth and great solemnity, listened to their great and learned chief, who probably was reading an eulogy of himself; we heard him mention his own name several times, while it really was only once mentioned in the letter. We were the only ones not impressed by his learning when we discovered that he had turned the letter upside down, which did not, however, interfere with his reading."

On the following day, Hovgaard and Nordquist, accompanied by

Menka and three other natives, set out for Menka's encampment, situated a day's journey from the ship. Three dog-sledges conveyed them rapidly, but with much jolting, over the snow-covered plains and frozen marshes, in a nearly due south direction. A few miles from the coast they first observed some dwarf willows, and farther on they found the sides of the low hills covered with them. They had expected to reach their destination in the evening, but when darkness set in Menka told them they had still some distance to go, and this disconcerting communication was presently followed by the discovery that he had lost the track. As they halted, voices were heard, which Menka thought proceeded from some fishermen who lived on the banks of a lake in the vicinity, and he sent one of the Chukches to inquire the way. The lake was crossed on the ice, and then the track was lost again. They drove on, however, until they came to a broad river, the perpendicular banks of which were at least twenty feet high; and, following the right bank until a ford was reached, they there came upon a good road.

Menka's encampment was not reached until eight o'clock next morning. Eighteen tents stood upon an island in a river that flowed through a broad valley. A large herd of reindeer was grazing in the vicinity. The ground rose on each side of the river to a ridge of hills about 2,000 feet above the sea, and one hill, of conical form, rose about 1,000 feet above its fellow peaks. The Chukches at this place were better dressed than those of the coast, and in some of the tents were pewter cups and articles of gilt china, obtained by barter with the American traders in Behring Strait. The return journey was commenced in the afternoon, and though Menka assured them that the ship would be reached at noon on the following day, they did not arrive until the evening.

It had now become evident that they would have to remain in that dreary and inclement region all the winter, and preparations were made which provided every one with plenty of occupation. The quarter-deck was cleared, to serve as a recreation-room for the crew. An observatory was constructed on the shore, the walls being built

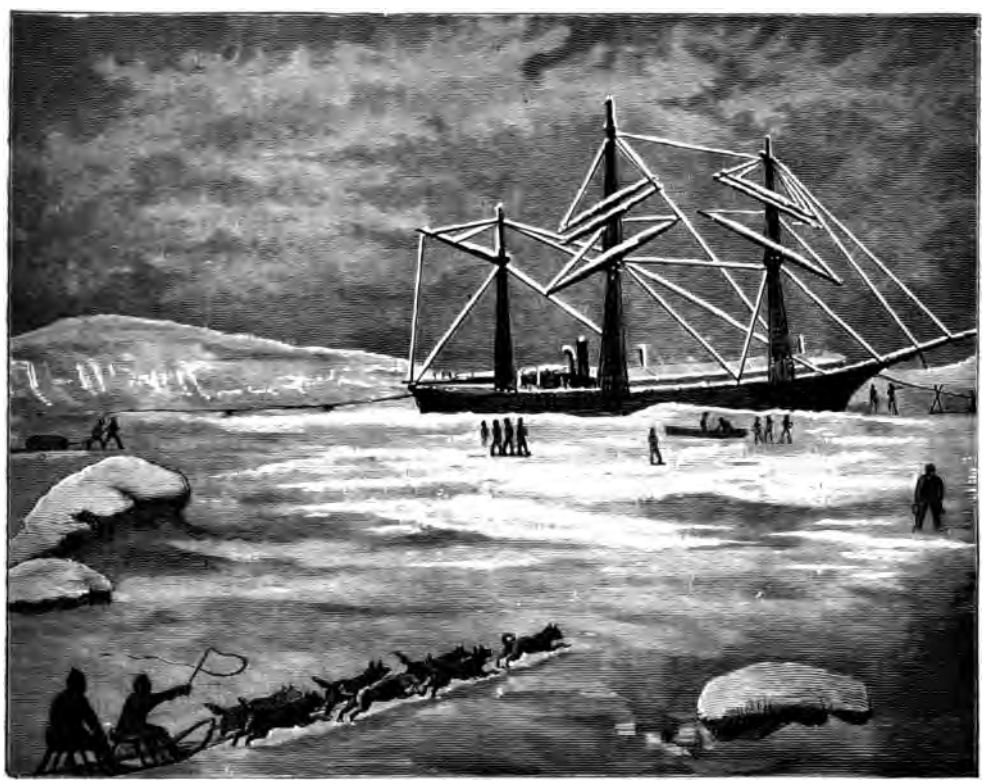
of sawn blocks of ice and the roof of boards covered with tarpaulin. To enable the observers to find the way in snow and fog, a line of ice-posts, connected by a rope, was set up from the observatory to the ship. Books and newspapers were now produced from sea-chests, and the carpenter played the barrel-organ, or the second engineer and one of the sailors made melody with violin and guitar.

The last birds of passage winged their flight southward early in October. Only some grouse and a few crows remained, and the former, being in their winter plumage of white, easily eluded observation on the snow. There were some hares, but their white fur presented the same difficulty. Wolves were seen occasionally, but only one or a pair at a time, and they never came near the ship. The footprints of a bear were sometimes observed during the autumn, but the animal was never seen.

The explorers did not consider themselves so much to be commiserated as our readers may perhaps imagine. "I think," says one of them, "the monotony, and even the hardships, of a wintering are fully counterbalanced by the magnificent displays of natural phenomena, which may be compared to the splendour of the tropics. In the deep blue arctic sky the stars shine with a brightness which is not surpassed by the much-praised sky of southern climes. The intense cold is scarcely perceived, not a breath of air is stirring. On the northern horizon the aurora is ascending in a transparent bow of faint, steady light, through which the stars are shining with undiminished brightness. The lower border of the bow is sharply defined, and in the dark segment underneath the colour of the sky is still deeper; the upper part of the bow is not distinctly defined. Occasionally a faint ray shoots out towards the zenith. When the moon is full, the northern light is completely eclipsed by her clear and powerful light, which, by its reflex from the snow, turns night into day."

Kind friends in Sweden had anticipated the probability that the explorers would have to winter west of Behring Strait, and had provided ample means for the enjoyment of Christmas. The traditional fare of that season is not with the Northmen as with

ourselves, however, and dried cod and rice porridge held the places which on English tables are occupied by roast beef and plum-pudding. There was ample supply of ginger-nuts and hot punch, and a Christmas-tree was made by tying branches of the dwarf willow to a



THE "VEGA" IN WINTER QUARTERS.

flagstaff. Two boxes which had not till then been opened furnished a good display of presents, and the tree was brilliantly lighted. Flags, ship lanterns, and stars formed of bayonets, completed the decorations, and a barrel-organ alternated its music with that of a violin and guitar. A very pleasurable evening was spent, and we can well believe that, as one of the party has recorded, "longing thoughts floated far away to friends and relatives who were celebrating the same joyous occasion."

With the approach of spring open water began to be seen at a great distance from the ship, the natives crossed the ice to catch seals at its edge, and sea-gulls and snow-buntings were seen about the beach. In the middle of May green spots appeared here and there upon the snowy slopes, and flocks of auks and eider-ducks came from the south, increasing in number every day. As the spring advanced, a great collection of birds and their eggs was made by the naturalists of the

ROUNDING EAST CAPE.

expedition, while the vegetation, though all of a lowly kind, far exceeded their anticipations.

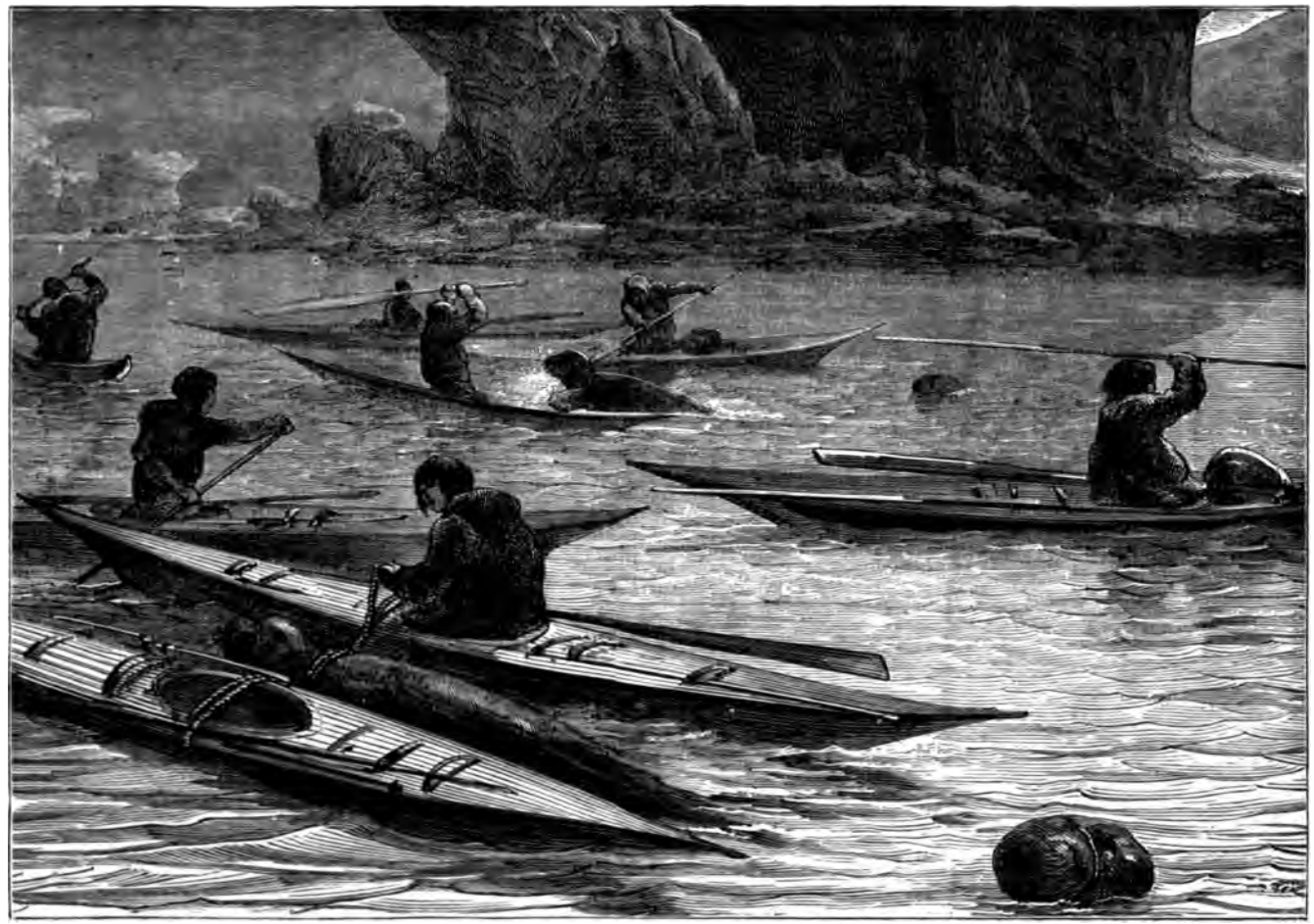
Though open water was seen in February, and on several occasions afterwards, it was succeeded as often by ice, and it was not until the 18th of July that the ship was free and the ice around in motion. At noon on that day it was observed that she had drifted northward with the ice nearly two miles, and the order to get up steam was given at once. On the morning of the 20th the East Cape was rounded, and the gun was fired and the ship's colours displayed to celebrate the passage into Behring Strait.

Steaming across to the American side of the strait, the explorers found two Eskimo villages, and in one of them a Chukch woman,

who interpreted for them, Eskimo not being included among the educational acquirements of any of the party. Some of the Eskimos knew a few words of English. The country was now green and flowery, but snow still lay on the high peaks of distant mountains. The slopes of the valley through which the river Konirak flows were clothed with firs and birches, the verdure of which was very pleasant to eyes which had for so many months beheld nothing but snow. On the 2nd of August the explorers shaped their course for Commander's Islands, on which a San Francisco firm have sealing stations. On Behring Island there is a small town of wooden huts, occupied by the seal-hunters and their families, by whom the voyagers were most hospitably received. There is a little chapel, in which service is performed once a year by a Russian priest from Petropaulowski, and during the rest of the year by one of the inhabitants, who are of mixed Russian and Aleutian descent.

The enormous number of fur-yielding animals, such as seals and sea-otters, resorting to these islands, attracted attention to them soon after their discovery by Behring, and has since led to the establishment of stores and warehouses for carrying on the trade in the skins. The hunters visit various spots on the coast in June and July, the remainder of the year being observed as a close time. On Behring Island there are two of these hunting grounds, one near Cape Severnoi, on the north side, and the other on the south-west coast. At the former the animals are so numerous that the skins cannot be conveyed to the little town on sledges, but are taken away by a steamer. The hunting at the latter, however, is much less productive, and the steamer does not go so far, but calls at a village close to the western extremity of the island, to which the skins are conveyed. At Copper Island there are several hunting-grounds, all on the south-west coast, whence the skins are conveyed on sledges to the station, which is situated near the north-west point of the island.

The seal-hunting is conducted here on such a moderate scale that the hunters have no fear of either a bad season or the extinction of the animals. These are of various species, known as sea-lions, sea-



ESKIMO SEAL HUNTERS.

bears, sea-cows, &c., and their numbers are prodigious. Some of the members of Nordenskiöld's expedition, who visited Cape Severnoi, estimated the number then present on the shore at not less than 300,000! The number killed here in 1879 was 13,000, and the annual export of skins from both islands amounts to 120,000. At this rate there seems no likelihood of the animals becoming extinct, and as they are not disturbed during ten months of the year they are not likely to abandon their resorts. The fur-trading company pay a tax of two roubles per skin to the Russian Government, and the hunters receive one rouble for each.

The islanders are now civilised, and appear to be thriving and comfortable, procuring from the company's stores all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life. They own the houses in which they live, and which are all built of wood, and furnished in the European style. One of the narrators of the expedition says:—"We were received with the greatest hospitality in the houses we visited. The Russian tea-urn was always on the table, and in the evening there was singing and dancing going on in most of the houses; one would believe that he was among the happiest people in the world."

The explorers remained here until the 19th, when the voyage was resumed with a fair wind, which blew steadily until the 31st, enabling them to make rapid progress southward. On that day they experienced a violent thunderstorm, and the lightning struck the mainmast, splintering the truck, and giving a shock to those who were near the wire-rigging. Next day they sighted the east coast of Japan, and on the evening of the 2nd of September dropped anchor in the harbour of Yokohama. Hong Kong, Labuan, Singapore, Point de Galle, and Aden were called at on the return voyage, and then the *Vega* steamed through the Suez Canal, and on the 16th of April arrived at Copenhagen, where a hearty and magnificent reception awaited the expedition. Eight days later the explorers reached their native land, and the voyage of the *Vega* was at an end.

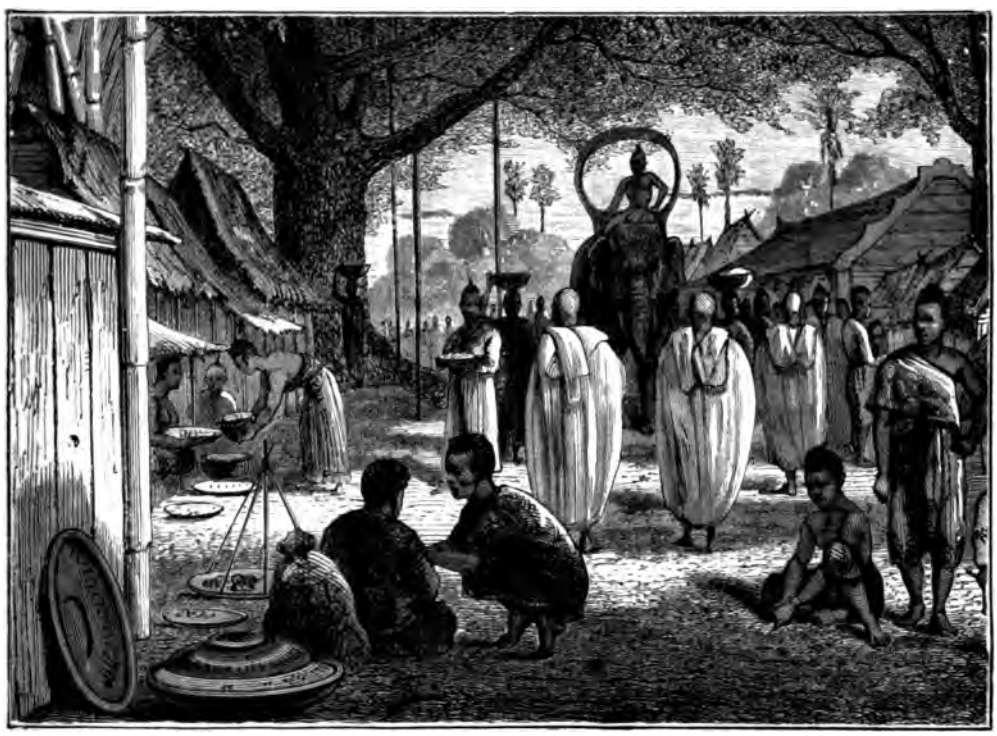
A VILLAGE IN INDO-CHINA.

THE EXPLORATIONS OF FRANCIS GARNIER IN THE INTERIOR OF INDO-CHINA.

THE exploring expedition which, by order of the French Government, set out from Saigon, in June, 1866, was commanded by Captain Doudart de Lagrée, the second officer being Lieutenant Francis Garnier, both of the imperial navy. Having established a settlement on the coast of Cochin-China, the Government were desirous of a more accurate knowledge of the interior of the country, and it was resolved to direct an expedition up the valley of the Mekong.

Three days after their departure from Saigon, the expedition arrived at Campong Luong, a few miles from Oudong, the capital

of Cambodia. Captain de Lagrée, who had visited the place on a former occasion, resolved to avail himself of the present opportunity to complete the examination of the famous ruins of Angcor, situated at the north-east extremity of the Great Lake, and, with some other



CAMPONG LUONG.

members of the expedition, and a photographer from Saigon, set out for the site of that ancient city. The most important monument of the past which is still in existence consists of a tolerably perfect but dilapidated pagoda, which Garnier describes as the master-piece of some unknown Michael Angelo of the far East. It is of colossal dimensions, rising storey upon storey, at the end of a long avenue of sculptured dragons of fantastic forms. The stone terraces upon which it is raised are much dilapidated, and dwarf palms have

rooted in the crevices, while a variety of creeping and trailing plants clothe them with verdure.

It was only after several visits that the travellers obtained a perfect idea of this remarkable temple, so confusing were the numerous staircases and galleries and the uniformity of the vast colonnades, the very symmetry of which rendered them an almost inextricable maze. The immense pile, the principal façade of which is shown in our illustration, is of rectangular form, having its front to the west. The great gallery is formed externally by two rows of columns, and internally by a sculptured wall. In the centre is a triumphal arch of three openings, and at the extremities are two other openings which served for the passage of cars. The bas-reliefs which adorn the wall represent religious ceremonies and mythological combats. All the columns are square, with the exception of those which support the terrace of the principal façade and those forming the peristyle of the galleries of the central storey. The capital and the base are, as a rule, ornamented alike, and the execution is admirable.

From Angcor Wat, the site of this grand relic of ancient Eastern art, the explorers proceeded to Angcor Tom, or Great Angcor, the ruins of which are a short distance northward. Here is a terrace supported by fantastic figures of giants, each with a different face, some grotesque in their expression, others combining ornithological characteristics with something of a human aspect. In the midst of a thick growth of tropical vegetation are the palace and the burial-place of the ancient kings, the plan of the former having a general resemblance to that of the pagoda of Angcor Wat, and presenting the same lavish display of sculpture. Figures of royal and noble personages, male and female, some in the attitude of prayer, long processions, fantastic animals, are reproduced profusely on the walls. At the northern extremity of the terrace is the famous statue known as the Leper King.

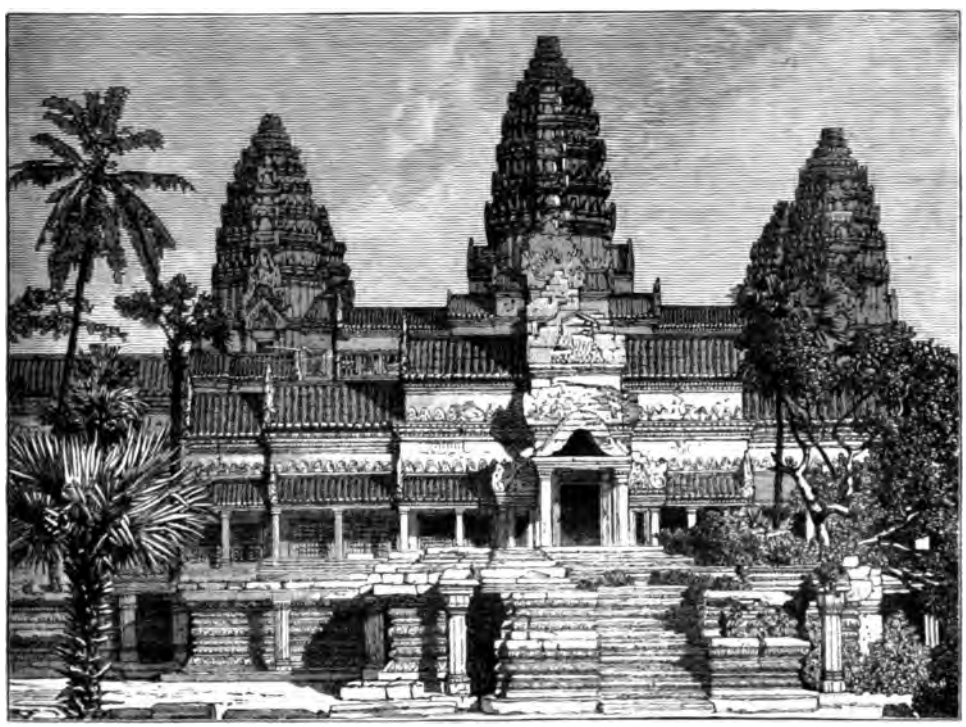
From the summit of these ruins the explorers had a beautiful view. At their feet was the surrounding forest, which extended

northward beyond the range of vision. In the south-east, Angcor Wat, its towers and its colonnades, rose amidst the groups of palms and fruit trees, which gave the landscape an Oriental character full of poetry and grace. Towards the west, a little lake reflected in its mirror the surrounding verdure. In the south, dimly seen through a warm haze, was spread out the pale golden bosom of the Great Lake.

At the beginning of July the explorers returned to Campong Luong, which, like all the villages of Cambodia and Annam, is composed of a long row of houses parallel to the river, and built upon a sort of causeway which forms the bank, and dominates the surrounding country. The only difference in the villages of the two countries is that those of Annam rest directly on the ground, while the Cambodian houses are elevated upon piles. This mode of building has been supposed to have had its origin in the necessity of providing against the risk of inundation. But, as the same custom prevails in the interior, where the inhabitants are not exposed to the danger of a watery invasion, it may be attributed to an instinct of race, peculiar to some of the peoples of the East; and its convenience is shown in the prevention of dampness and the exclusion of snakes, scorpions, leeches, and other disagreeable visitors.

A broad causeway leads from Campong Luong to Oudong, the traveller passing on the left a hill crowned with an old pagoda of great renown as possessing a colossal statue of Buddha; and on the right a pagoda of comparatively recent erection, in which modern Cambodian art is displayed in all its magnificence, which is, however, but a pale reflection of that exhibited in the temples of Bangkok. From Campong Luong to Pnom Penh the right bank of the lake presents an uninterrupted series of villages and detached houses, one of the most important of which is Pignalu, the seat of the Roman Catholic mission that was founded in Cambodia in 1553 by the Portuguese priests, Luis Cardoso and Juan Madera. Several bishops have been there interred, and in the seventeenth century it afforded a refuge to Paul d'Acosta, vicar-general of the Bishop of Malacca, on the capture of that town by the Dutch.

Pnom Penh was, in the fifteenth century, the residence of the Cambodian kings, and is said to have contained, before it was burned by the Siamese, fifty thousand inhabitants. It derives its name, according to some, from a pyramidal monument of large dimensions and great antiquity, ornamented with horizontal lines in high relief, and

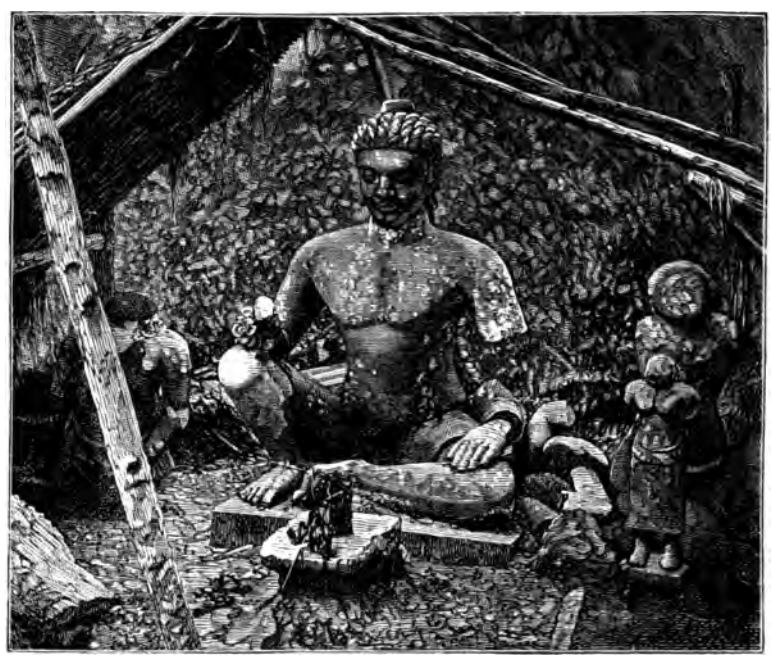


PRINCIPAL FAÇADE OF ANGCOR WAT.

surmounting a square base ; according to others, from the name of a lady of high rank and great piety, by whom the monument was erected. The population is mixed, comprising, besides Cambodians, Annamites, Siamese, Malays, and Chinese. The Annamites furnish the boatmen employed in the traffic with the lower Cochin-Chinese provinces and the fisheries of the Great Lake, and a great number of the small shopkeepers. The Malays form a powerful body, being the principal dealers in the European goods which compete with the

similar merchandise imported from China. On the market of Pnom Penh our travellers found the cotton goods of Lancashire and the cordials of the French distilleries side by side with the porcelain, the mercery, and the ironmongery of China.

The travellers completed at this place their purchases of goods required for exchange, and on the 7th of July proceeded on their



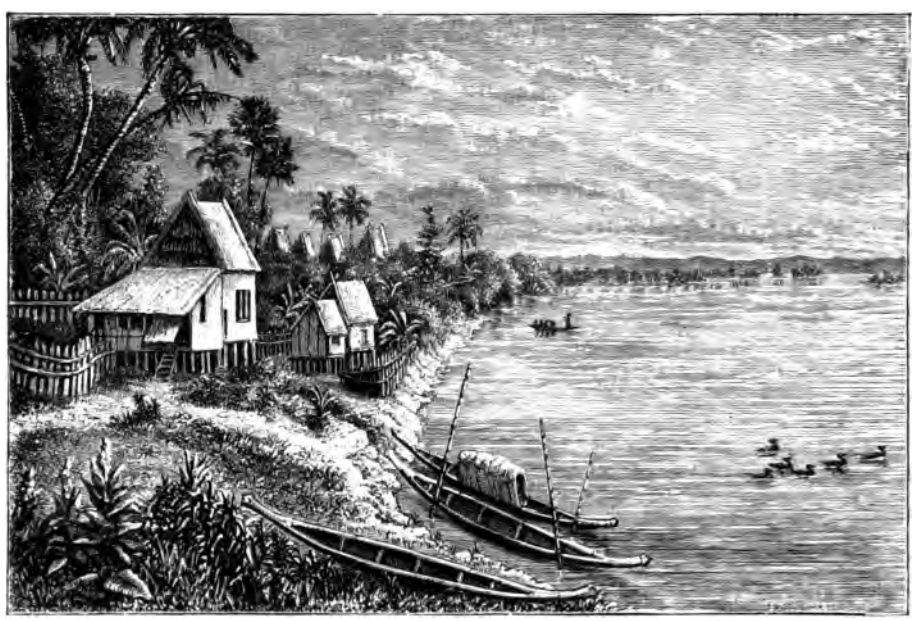
THE LEPER KING.

voyage, passing on their left the Sutin group of islets, on one of which are the ruins of a grand pagoda. It consists of four rectangular enclosures surrounding a central sanctuary, each face of which presents a statue of Buddha for the adoration of the faithful. The pilasters are highly ornamented, in a style similar to those of Angcor Wat. Above the niches in which the statues are enshrined are reliefs representing various phases of the life of Buddha. According to an inscription translated, at the request of M. de Lagrée, by the chief of the Cambodian bonzes, or priests, the pagoda dates from the tenth century.

As the vessel approached the rapids of Sambor the current became very strong, and, the river being in flood, the banks were submerged, and indicated only by the trees and shrubs which surmounted them. Numerous ducks were gliding in and out among the trees, and on the branches of those to which the water did not reach monkeys perched, or gambolled among the parasitical stems which festooned them. Passing the rapids with some difficulty, the travellers reached the village of Stung Treng, in Laos, and on the 18th of August arrived at the island of Khong, the largest of a group of islets which dot the river at a part of its course where it spreads out considerably. Only Khong and another are inhabited, the others being covered with thick jungle. Between these islands are several falls and rapids, the most important of which is that of Salaphe, the picturesque character of which is greatly enhanced by the verdant aspect of the crests of rock that rise above the ledge over which the river tumbles, and the contrast presented by the foaming water to the dark rocks amidst which it plunges, and the thickly wooded banks on either side.

A few days were spent in exploring the beautiful scenery of these islands and the adjacent shores, and then the travellers continued their voyage. The river now was found to reunite all its arms in a single stream, flowing through a thickly populated and highly cultivated country. From Khong to Bassac it flows northward, a range of hills bounding the prospect on either hand. Opposite Bassac, which is situated on the right bank, it is divided into two arms of unequal breadth by a large island called Don Deng. Here the mountains approach nearer to the river, and on the left bank the summits present a volcanic character. Above Bassac, the stream, thus hemmed in, becomes narrower, and the precipices of Phon Molong, which terminate towards the north the chain of mountains on the right bank of the river, confine the stream within the narrowest limits. The character of the landscape undergoes a corresponding change. Instead of fields and gardens, and long lines of palms and houses, rocks overhang the dark stream, and mountains rise upon mountains, covered to their summits with dense forests.

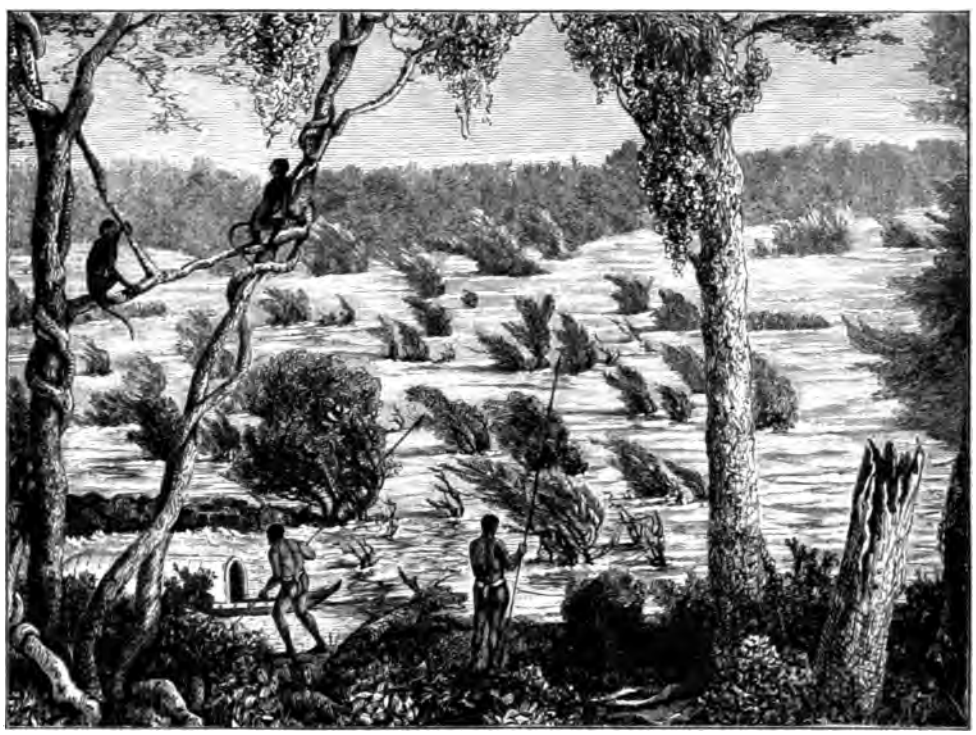
One of the excursions made by the explorers from Bassac was to the falls of the Se Don (an affluent of the Mekong), which have a more imposing aspect than those of Salaphe, owing to the water descending in one almost perpendicular plunge. On their way, after passing round the foot of Phon Salas, a hill which inflexes the course of the river towards the east, they discovered, on the left



VIEW OF KHONG.

bank of the river, a remarkable platform of basaltic columns, presenting a level surface of six-sided stones, as regular as a floor designed and executed by human art and human hands. After viewing the falls, M. Garnier descended the river, and visited the village of Ban Song, where he was hospitably entertained in the house of the Governor of the province of Bassac. The mandarin was absent, but his elephants were placed at the service of the explorers, and mounted on three of those noble animals, with a native guide and escort, they made an excursion of some length, passing over a wooded and gently undulating country. In some

places, where the forests had been burned, and transformed into rice-fields—the only mode of cultivation practised by the semi-savage natives of this part of Laos—the existence of wild elephants was denoted by the strong palisades constructed by the rice growers to protect their crops from the incursions of the huge creatures.



VIEW ON THE RAPIDS OF THE MEKONG.

On the 9th of October M. Garnier and his party were again at Bassac. The country had undergone a complete change of appearance during their absence. The waters of the Mekong had fallen several feet; the depressions of the surface, which the flood-water had temporarily converted into lakes, had again become dry land; the flats, fertilised by the mud deposited by the overflowing river, were covered with crops of tobacco and cotton. The rice fields had ripened into yellowness, and mulberries glistened among the dark

foliage of the trees. In the villages, the carts which had stood unemployed under the houses were repaired, the oxen were recalled from the elevated lands on which they had spent the period of the inundation, and resumed their accustomed service. Life, for a time suspended, had recommenced for all.

The expedition had been on the best terms with the authorities and the inhabitants of the country. The King of Bassac, a young man of twenty-four or twenty-five, had made to Captain de Lagrée the most courteous advances and the kindest offers of service. The grand fête was in preparation which annually celebrates the end of the inundation and the resumption of labour. Its popular name is Hena Long, "the feast of the boats," and its real signification is a homage of the river for the fertility which it confers upon the country. The Government of Bankok has ably turned to its own account these popular rejoicings, and it is in the midst of this fête, in the presence of a great concourse of people, that the King of Bassac and all the governors of the province solemnly renew in the great pagoda their act of allegiance to the King of Siam. The fête commenced on the 24th of October. All the pagodas overflowed with offerings; mandarins, parents, and friends exchanged the accustomed presents; feasts and concerts were given in all the houses; fireworks flashed and sparkled when the darkness of night had come.

The dry season being completely established, the travellers prepared to resume their explorations. M. de Lagrée returned to Khong, and revisited the cataracts. The fête was not yet over in the villages, and the pagodas were bright and fragrant with floral offerings. M. Garnier visited the ancient remains situated at a little distance from Bassac, and called by the natives Wat Phon, which means "the pagoda of the mountains." They crown one of the summits of a three-peaked mountain, the sides of which are covered with a thick forest, through which the pagoda is reached by a long avenue of singular-looking columns with pyramidal capitals. From the foot of the mountain a series of stone stairs and terraces extends to the pagoda, which is built in the form of a cross, and as elaborately

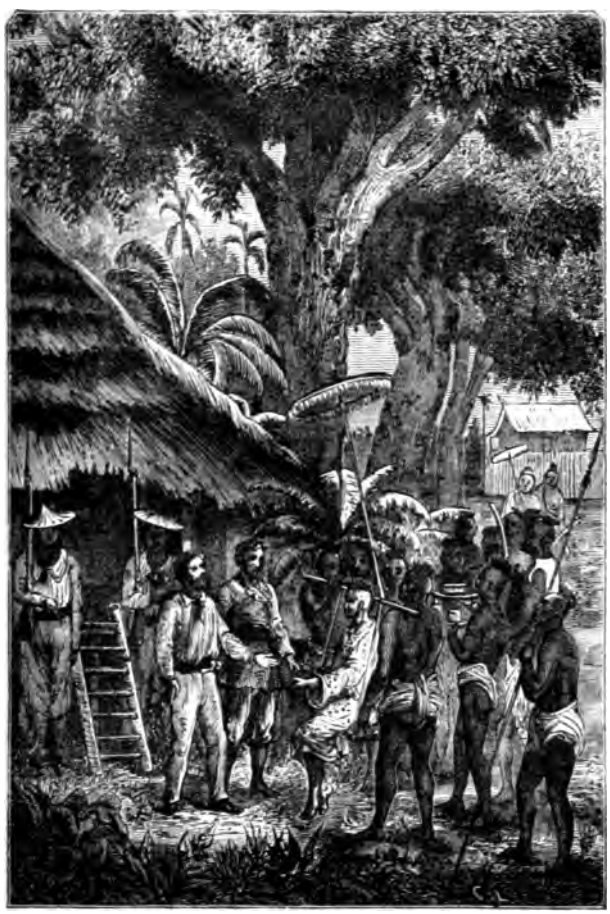
sculptured as the Angcor Wat. The gate of the sanctuary is festooned with creeping and trailing plants, which do not, however, conceal its fantastic reliefs, the central portion representing a figure riding upon a three-headed elephant, grotesque masks forming the side ornaments, and the whole of the intervening space being filled with the most

VIEW ON THE SE DON.

elaborate scroll-work. The interior of the sanctuary is crowded with figures of Buddha, of persons in the act of adoration, and others of a votive character, all in good preservation. Among the ruins, which are overgrown with ferns and creepers, a head of Buddha was found, with half-closed eyes and elephantine ears, but with a cast of countenance more Caucasian than Mongolian, more feminine than masculine.

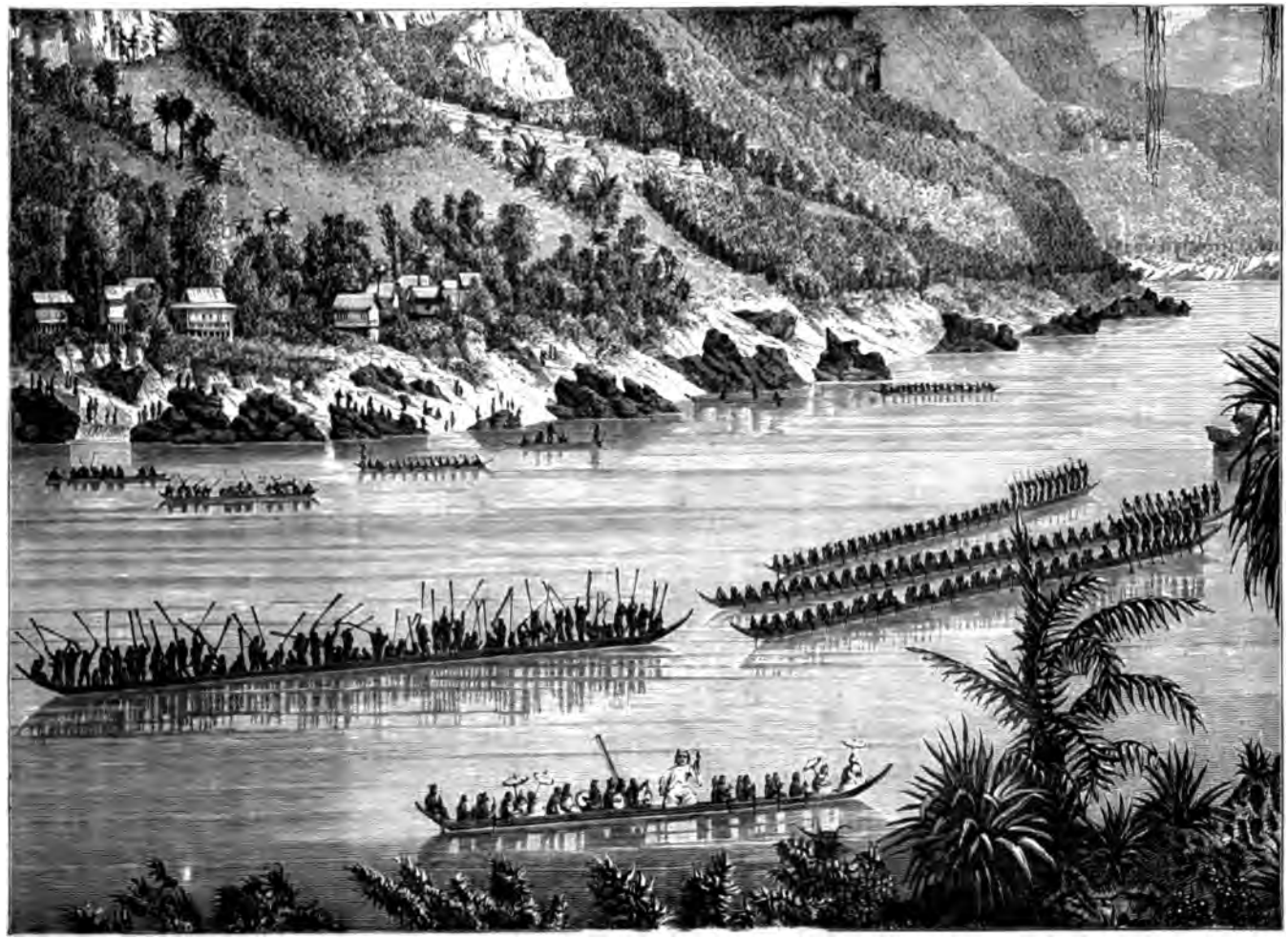
On the 10th of January, 1867, M. Garnier bade adieu to his companions for a time, and ascended the Se Moun, an affluent of the Mekong, which pursues a sinuous course through verdant plains,

dotted with fine clumps of bamboo and euphorbias. On the 14th he arrived at Ti Saket, the chief town of a Laosian province, and situated at a little distance from the junction of the Se Moun and the Tam Lan. Here he found some Chinese and Peguan dealers in small wares encamped in the open air, in the midst of their travelling carts, reminding him of the "Cheap Jacks" and mountebanks who itinerate through the villages and small towns of France. Pausing only to procure bullock-carts to continue his journey inland, he crossed a broad bare plain, on which a few villages, with their surrounding orchards and gardens, formed green islets dotting a vast expanse of sterility.



INTERVIEW WITH THE KING OF BASSAC.

Seven or eight leagues further the forest reappeared, and the landscape became less monotonous. The winding road was continued beneath dark arcades of luxuriant vegetation, where flowers filled the air with a delicious perfume. Then openings appeared in the foliage, rice fields were seen, and presently the feathery crowns of palm trees announced the proximity of a village. Souren is the chief place of a



BOAT FESTIVAL ON THE MEKONG.

Cambodian province which has passed under the domination of Siam. The Governor was absent, and Garnier had some difficulty in obtaining bullock-carts for the continuation of his journey. The buffaloes were in the pastures; the carts were undergoing repair; the heat was too great for travelling. At the next village, the chief shook his head, and looked grave when the traveller stated his wants; he spoke of mountains and precipices, and urged the impossibility of proceeding farther. Garnier would hear of no excuses, understand no difficulties; he must proceed, and he must have the means of transport. His firmness prevailed, and he again went forward.

On the 25th he arrived at Tchoucan, where the deputy-governor, in the absence of his superior, accorded him a hospitable reception, and invited him to a banquet given in honour of a rich Cambodian who had been ordained a bonze. Garnier assisted with curiosity in a portion of the ceremony. The head of the candidate for the priesthood was shaven, he was stripped of every garment, and subjected to a severe examination; after which numerous offerings were made by his friends, a long discourse was delivered by the chief officiating bonze, and then he was invested with the yellow robe which denotes the priestly order.

Four days later, Garnier emerged from a wood which stretched to the west of Mont Bakheng, and found himself on the plain dominated by the citadel of Siemréap. It was harvest time, and all the country wore a golden tint. Buffalo-carts were conveying the grain to the bamboo huts in which it was to be stored; buffaloes were treading out the grain in a monotonous tramp upon the hard ground. Long lines of trees offered a rich variety of tropical fruits; the borassus palm elevated its collarette of foliage like a column sustaining an edifice of verdure; the cocoa-nut palm waved its long, dishevelled branches; the airy form of the areca palm offered a striking contrast to the massive banian. About the huts, the papaw balanced its light parasol, and rows of bananas masked the trunks of the orange and jack trees.

Returning to Bassac, M. Garnier was hospitably received by the king, and proceeded to make preparations for a longer journey north-

ward. As portions of the country to be traversed were in a state of rebellion, such an expedition was not unattended with danger, and precautions against an attack had to be taken. Leaving Bassac on the evening of the 2nd of February, he passed at daybreak on the 5th the rebel post at Campong Trak, where the tom-toms beat an alarm, and his expedition was challenged by the sentries. The reply proved satisfactory, and the boats were allowed to pass. Some stay was made at Pnom Penh, and then the expedition left the province of Angcor, and entered that of San Kéa, which seemed to be thinly-populated. Many miles were travelled without meeting a human being.

At Oubon an agreeable sojourn was made. The temperature was delightful, the lodgings assigned to M. Garnier and his companions superb, and the table service perfect. The king and all the members of his family paid them every attention. Oubon is, for Laos, a large and fine town. The better sort of houses are handsome and spacious, and stand in the midst of large gardens. The pagodas are rich and highly ornamented, and are surrounded by rows of tall palms and immense banians. Here the travellers witnessed a grand religious festival, on which occasion the king rode to the great pagoda on a richly caparisoned elephant, attended by all the dignitaries of the kingdom, similarly mounted, and escorted by a guard of cavalry and infantry. The streets were thronged with people, and at night banquets and concerts were given in all the principal houses, and a grand display of fireworks took place.

Continuing their voyage up the Mekong, they passed several green islands, garnished with tobacco and cotton plantations, and had more than once to shoot rapids, which tasked to the utmost the dexterity of their native boatmen. Palms and bamboos lined the banks, and trailing plants, with flowers of the brightest colours, were festooned from tree to tree. Near the mouth of the Sé Bangfay, which falls into the Mekong from the west, a long avenue of palms was observed at right angles to the river, and, looking in that direction, the summit of a lofty pyramid was perceived rising amidst the trees. This was recognised as a sanctuary greatly revered by the Laosians, the

beauty and antiquity of which they had heard vaunted during their sojourn at Bassac.

On the 23rd of March they reached, on the right bank of the river, a pagoda containing one of those so-called impressions of the foot of Buddha which are numerous throughout Laos, but the most renowned

BONZES.

of which are those of Adam's Peak, in Ceylon, and the mountain called by the Siamese Swana Bapato, between Bankok and Korat. They are of great size, and the whole space is divided into numerous compartments, filled with symbolic devices. Next day they reached Nong Kay, whence an excursion was made to the ruins of Vien Chan, the ancient capital of Laos, destroyed during an invasion of the Siamese. A forest has grown up around the ruins, and ferns and creepers cover with verdure the floors of palace and pagoda. The

remains of the palace are of considerable extent, and in tolerable preservation, traces of gilding being observable on the elaborate carving of the pillars. The most considerable of the pagodas contains a statue which is said to be one of the most ancient representations of

HUT OF A LAOSIAN PEASANT.

Buddha. A little distance northward of this pagoda, and in the midst of the forest, is a smaller and less pretentious one, which remains nearly entire. Here the explorers found in the entrance numerous small figures of Buddha occupying gilded niches. Continuing to traverse the forest in a northerly direction, they reached the wall of the city, and found a gate of solid construction opening upon an avenue of magnificent trees.

Having devoted several days to the exploration of these ruins, of which several drawings were made, the travellers continued their journey northward, in the shadow of precipitous mountains, and amidst bold rocks, between which the river rushed tumultuously, foaming and roaring. On the 28th of April they reached Luang Prabang, the modern capital of Laos, in honour of which the travellers and their escort put on their best appearance. The city is situated just above the mouth of the river Nam Kan, an affluent of the Mekong, into which it flows from the east. The negotiations for their reception occupied an entire day. The bearing of the authorities was marked by extreme coldness, varied with symptoms of hostility or inquietude. The attempts of an English expedition to explore the upper waters of the Menam had given offence, and excited the population against Europeans generally. Every point of the programme was contested, and when all was at length yielded, the king observed the utmost reserve towards the travellers, spoke only in monosyllables, and speedily terminated the interview.

The numerous pagodas of the city are richly decorated, and reminded the explorers of those which they had examined at Vien Chan. In one the gifts were as rich as they were numerous, and comprised embroidered banners, bronze statuettes, and mounted elephants' tusks, two of which were of unusual size, elaborately carved and adorned with gilding. This pagoda was of singular form—that which is given to coffins in those parts of the East in which those receptacles are used.

Leaving Luang Prabang on the 25th of May, the explorers reached in the evening the mouth of the Nam Hou, on the right bank of which, in the precipitous side of a hill, is a remarkable cavern, which the natives have converted into a sanctuary. Reaching the entrance by steps cut in the rock, they entered the grotto, and by the flickering light of torches, which produced strange fluctuations of light and shade, beheld Buddhas of all sizes niched in every nook and cavity, and the usual offerings of flowers, banners, and parasols. A paddle up the Nam Hou terminated the excursion. Birds flew

out from their nests in the crannies of the rocks far above their heads at the sound of their oars, their harsh and discordant cries, with the murmur of the stream, and the musical humming of nocturnal insects, being the only sounds that broke the silence of the night.

Above this point the navigation became more difficult, and the country on both banks underwent a change. The vegetation completely lost its tropical aspect, and pines crowned the highest hills bordering the narrow valley through which the river pursued its rapid course. The country was more thinly populated than in the lower portion of the river, and the half-naked inhabitants suggested an approach to the limits of Oriental civilisation. On the 1st of June the rapids of Keng Le were ascended, an operation which necessitated the unlading of their boats, which had to be pulled through the foaming water by ropes held by men upon the rocks. That obstacle passed, the navigation became less difficult, the stream widened again, the banks were less rocky, the sinuosities disappeared, and the force of the current diminished.

They were now approaching the northern frontier of Siam, and at Xieng Khong the authorities interposed every obstacle to their further progress. Trade with the Shan States was *nil*, they were told, and the means of navigation very much restricted; large boats were exceedingly rare, and good boatmen not to be found. While these causes of delay were in course of removal, the travellers made themselves acquainted with the town and neighbourhood. The former is surrounded by a ditch and a strong palisade, beyond which a forest stretches. The buffalo carts of Laos here disappear, and are succeeded by elephants, which are employed to drag from the forest the massive trunks of teak trees.

Xieng Khong was left behind on the 14th of June, six boats having been procured; and happily for the inexperience of the boatmen, the navigation was not difficult. Four days later they reached the rapids of Tang Ho, which at that season offer an insurmountable obstacle to navigation. Here, too, the right bank of the river is

Burmese territory, and they had consequently reached the limit of the country within which their passports assured them free passage. M. de Lagrée accordingly despatched a courier to the Governor of Muong Lim, the chief town of which province was within a short distance, asking for the means of transport, which came on the following day in the shape of a dozen bullocks. Permission to proceed could not be given, however, until after a reply had been received to a message sent to the King of Xieng Tong, a tributary of Ava. The travellers determined, therefore, to occupy temporary quarters in Muong Lim, a town of considerable size, surrounded by rice-fields.

A favourable response being at length received, the exploration was resumed on the 1st of July, the road to be traversed running through rice-fields for a considerable distance, and then winding through a wooded valley, in some places so narrow that the only practicable track was the bed of a rapid, but fortunately shallow, stream. At Sop Yong, however, they were overtaken by two Burmese soldiers, who brought an official communication requiring them to proceed to Muong Yong, and declare the object of their journey to the chief mandarin of that place. To Muong Yong they accordingly proceeded, and from that place M. de Lagrée found it necessary to make a journey to Xieng Tong. The negotiations of the commandant with the Burmese authorities being at length crowned with success, the northward course was resumed on the 8th of September.

The aspect of the country now traversed offered little worthy of remark until they approached the frontier of the great empire of China. There the forest gradually disappeared, and was succeeded by orchards and gardens, and the vegetation again underwent a change. Maize took the place of rice in the fields, and the fibrous plant known as China grass was found growing in a wild state. The aspect of the village of Tehon-Tehiai, at which the explorers halted on the 16th of October, was entirely Chinese. Two days afterwards, the Celestial Empire, the Flowery Land, as the

MUONG YONG.

Chinese call it, was penetrated for the first time by Europeans from the Indian frontier. They had not been many minutes in the town of Se-mao when a mandarin of the blue button waited upon them with a present of rice, fowls, and pork; and they were afterwards visited by a mandarin of the red button, who accorded them a courteous reception.

Se-mao, being a frontier town, is surrounded by a wall, in which there are four gates. Near the south gate the visitors found the ruins of a handsome pagoda, the best preserved portion of which was a kind of triumphal arch, built of rose-tinted freestone. Setting out again on the 30th, they traversed an extensive plain, over which about thirty villages were scattered, the greater part of which had been destroyed and deserted during the Mahomedan rebellion. The town of Pon-eul, once a place of importance, was in almost as bad a condition. As they approached Yuen-Kiang more agreeable scenes were presented to their view. The surrounding plain was bare and yellow, the rice having been garnered, but verdure was supplied by fields of sugar-cane and the orange and areca palm groves, the latter furnishing the betel nut. The red summits of the hills, glowing in the sunlight, were reflected in the blue water of the river, and the grey walls of the houses of Yuen-Kiang were relieved by the bright greenery of the gardens.

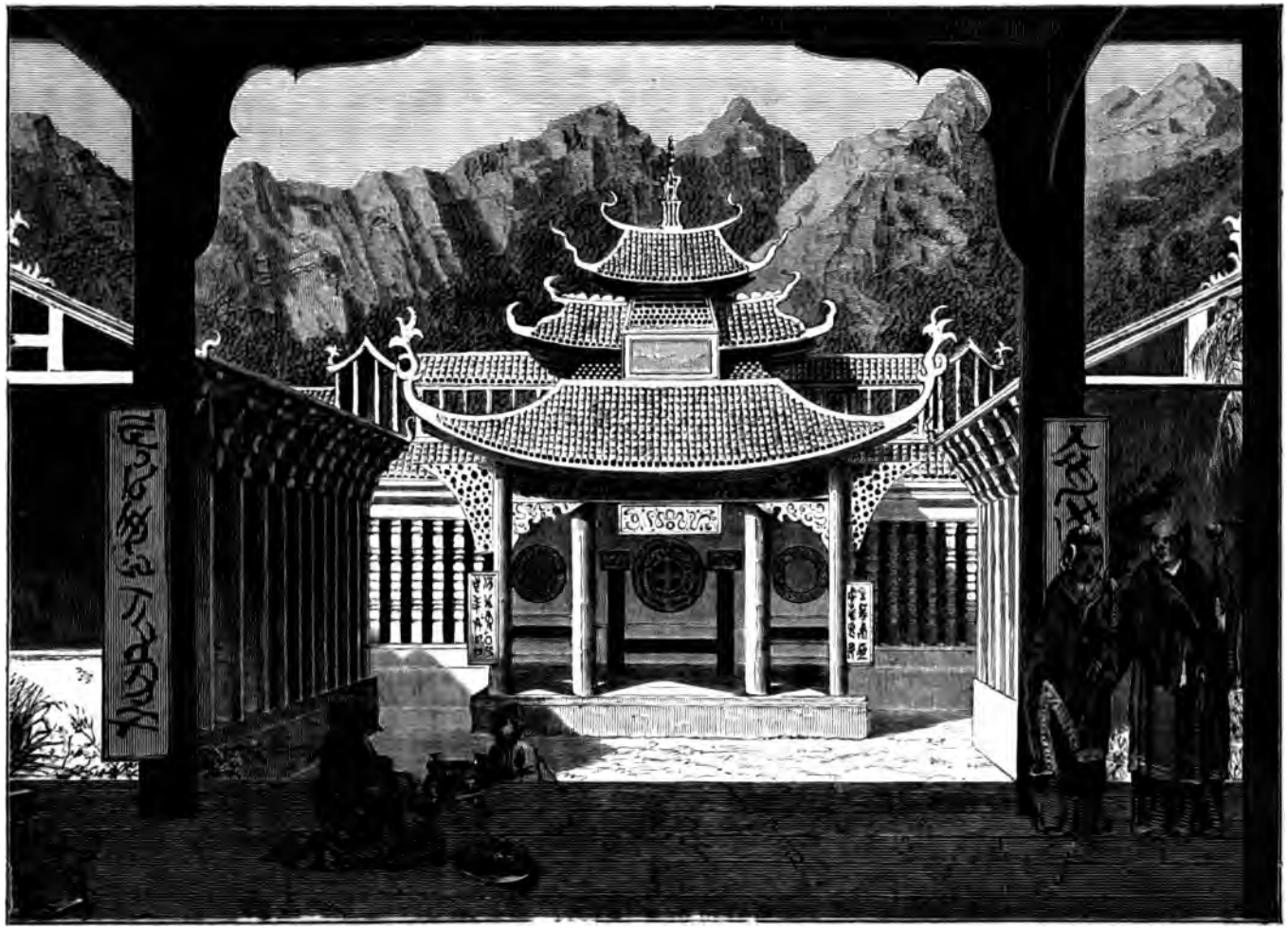
Chepin presented, however, a more comfortable appearance than any of the towns they had seen since they passed the frontier. There were no ruins, no abandoned houses; the streets were paved with marble, and the picturesque costumes of the mixed population gave life and colour to the place. Leaving this town on the 11th of December, the travellers continued their journey in a direction due north, and on the 14th reached Tong-Hay, a well-built and important town on the banks of an extensive lake. The drawings made by the artist of the expedition in the district which they had now entered might, in many instances, have been copied from the "willow pattern" which our potters have derived from those of China; so forcibly do they recall to the mind of the beholder the singular-

looking high-roofed houses, the high-arched bridges, and the peculiar trees represented upon the blue plates and dishes so familiar to us.

As they advanced, the country again became wild and mountainous, and consequently more enchanting for lovers of the picturesque, but proportionately difficult to traverse. In the narrow and thickly-wooded valley of Kon-tchang the party had to cross a torrent by leaping from rock to rock, and to scramble up and down the steep banks; and on the route from Tong-tchouen to Mong-kou, their way lay for a considerable distance along a ledge so narrow that it could be traversed only in single file, with a lofty wall of rock on one hand, and a sheer descent into a deep abyss on the other. Thence they descended into the valley of the Yang-tse-Kiang, and on the 11th of April were at Tchao-tong, where they were received with cordiality, and installed in the house of the native priest who had charge of the little Christian community there existing. Tchao-tong is a considerable town, situated on an extensive plain; the suburbs extend some distance from the walls, and are surrounded by fields of poppies, destined for the production of opium.

Ta-kouan, which ended their next stage, is picturesquely situated on the right flank of the heights that border the river on which Tchao-tong stands. Here the travellers were lodged in a pagoda in the highest part of the town, and from the summit of the steps leading to the sanctuary they had an extensive view over the surrounding country. Some distance north of this town they passed a suspension bridge, the first of the kind they had seen in China, and which displayed a considerable capacity for oscillation, though it seemed to be of solid and durable construction. Another was encountered at the large and important town of Lao-oua-tan, where the river runs rapidly between very steep hills, and the high, rocky banks rise perpendicularly from the water. The surrounding scenery is highly picturesque.

On the 25th of May the travellers left this mountainous region, and saw the river flowing through the vast plain of T-tchang. The white pagodas along the banks, the verdure of the richly cultivated



PAGODA OF TA-KOUAN.

country, and the numerous barks on the broad blue river, made a charming scene, and told them that they were approaching the coast. On the 3rd of June their little vessel glided into the midst of a forest of junks, and they found themselves at Han-kow, whence one of the fast steamers running between that port and Shanghai conveyed them to the latter city, where an enthusiastic reception awaited them on the part of the resident French merchants and consular officers. Quitting that city on the 19th on board the French mail-steamer, they reached Saigon on the 29th, having accomplished the most extensive exploration of the countries between India and China which has yet been achieved.

A GROVE OF QUINQUINAS.

THE TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES OF PAUL MARCOY IN THE VALLEYS OF LOWER PERU.

In 1849, M. Paul Marcoy, a Frenchman resident in the city of Cuzco, the ancient capital of Peru, organised an expedition to explore the quinquina valleys, beyond the western chain of the Andes. One object of the expedition being the discovery of quinquinas, as Spanish Americans call the trees which produce the bark from which the valuable medicine called quinine is prepared, a party of Bolivian *cascarilleros*, as the men who collect this bark are called, were included in the expedition. In their opinion, and in accordance with the law of the geographical distribution of plants, these trees were likely to be found in the valleys situated to the north of Caravaya. It was resolved to start at six o'clock in the morning from the court-yard

of the hotel known as the "House of Austria," but the morning passed away before the last preparations were made, the mules loaded, and each well-mounted cavalier at his post. Each had his foot in the stirrup, however, as the hour of noon sounded from every clock in

THE "HOUSE OF AUSTRIA."

the city, and a joyous peal of bells rung out as they rode into the cathedral square, and directed their course towards the suburb of Resoleta. When they had left the last house of the city of the Incas in their rear, they had before them a broad plain dotted with white houses, each standing amidst gardens and fields, and bounded on the right by the western ridge of the Andes, and on the left by the Sierra

de Huilcanota. As they rode on they passed on the right a venerable tree, with hollow trunk, rugged bark, and scanty foliage, which they were told was the "tree of adieux," said to have been planted by the Inca Capac Yupanqui, in the middle of the thirteenth century.

Their first halt was made in the village of Huaro, situated in the

THE START FROM CUZCO.

shadow of the mountains, where the plain over which they had been riding since noon narrows into the valley of the Quillabamba. Next day they pursued a more easterly course, and began to ascend the Sierra, riding through the shallow river, and skirting an almost perpendicular wall of rock, presenting a vitrified appearance, and varying in colour from bluish-grey to blue-black. On the lower slopes of the mountains they observed many beautiful flowers, lilies with milk-white corollas, tufts of blue scillas, and magnificent purple-

flowered salvias. Higher up they found dwarf lilies with orange-coloured flowers, and clumps of *Æchmea paniculata*, with thick leaves toothed on their edges, and with pale yellow blossoms.

During their ascent of the mountains, both men and horses suffered severely from the dry wind which swept over them; but the ridge was at length crossed, and they saw before them the *punas* or plateaux of the Andes, a plain apparently without limits, beyond which the horizon was lost in blue haze. Towards noon the sun was obscured by dark clouds, from which snow soon fell thickly and in large flakes, which the wind drove in the faces of the travellers, and swept over the plain in eddying wreaths. No shelter of any kind was within sight, and they were fain to keep on, bending over their horses' necks, and protecting themselves as they best could from the driving flakes, which quickly covered the plain with a carpet of glistening white. By degrees, however, the wind sank to a calm, the snow ceased to fall, the clouds dispersed, and the sun again brightened the far-stretching panorama.

Maynapata was reached in the evening, and, to the disappointment of the travellers, was found to consist of only four or five cottages, offering no better accommodation than outhouses, in which they had to rest as well as they could among sacks of potatoes, maize, and wool. The sun was high in the blue sky when they set out next morning, and the snow had disappeared from the plains, though it still whitened the summits of the distant mountains. Some enormous blocks of stone were passed, scattered about like boulders, but looking like the gigantic remnants of some edifice of a remote past. The Indians assign them to a period anterior to the Spanish conquest of the country, and say that they were brought from the Andes for the construction of temples or palaces, and, on account of their enormous weight, were abandoned on the road. M. Marcoy, however, arrived at the conclusion that they have been detached from the mountains by volcanic action, and then been carried to their present site on the plain by glaciers.

They halted that day at the village of Lauramarca, on the slope of a lofty snow-capped ridge, where fields of wheat, maize, oats, potatoes,

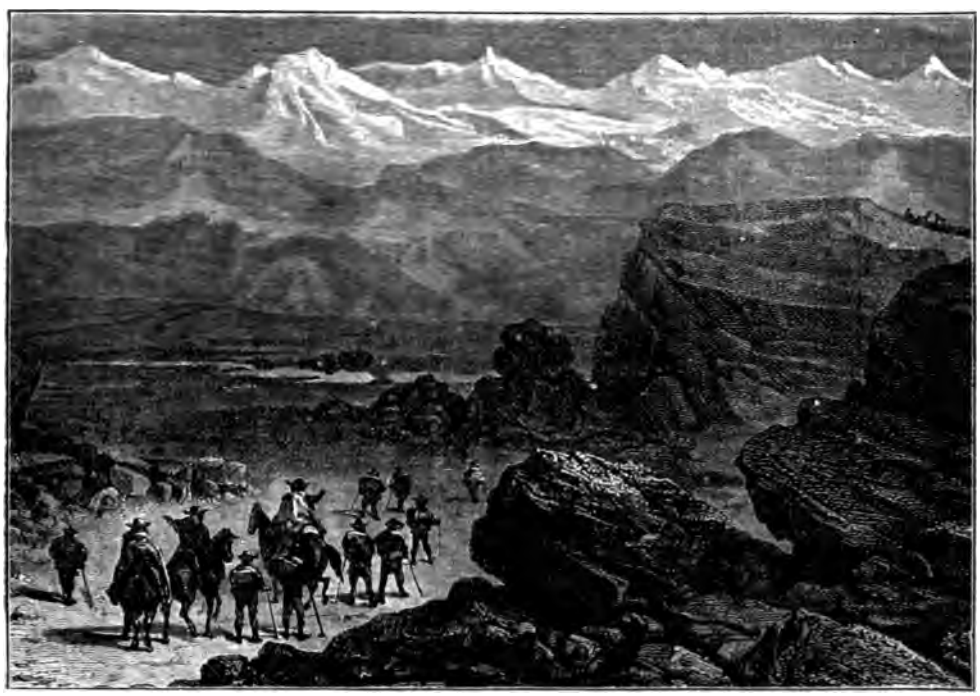
and lucerne offered a welcome contrast in their verdure to the arid plains which they had left behind. Two hours' riding from this place, where they were hospitably entertained at a large farmhouse, brought them to the foot of the Andes of Avisca, which present the spectacle of a prodigious agglomeration of extinct volcanoes, the peaks of which

CROSSING THE PLAIN OF MAYNAPATA.

are covered with eternal snow. The fatigues and dangers of travelling in this region are compensated by the splendour and variety of the scenery which unfolds at every step. The lofty mountains towered up before them, their snowy summits showing brilliantly white under the sunshine, and being sharply defined against the deep blue of the sky. At the foot of a rocky escarpment they found a small lake of irregular form, which the muleteers told them was the source of the river Pancartampu. Seven or eight vicugnas were gambolling upon its

banks, but upon the appearance of the travellers bounded off, springing like goats from rock to rock, and pausing upon an elevated platform to look down upon the cavalcade.

A rocky and tortuous path led steeply down the eastern slope of the mountain, and had to be descended with the greatest care.



THE SOURCE OF THE PANCARTAMPU.

A deep chasm was on their right as they descended, and across it rose a perpendicular wall of rock, down which trickled several tiny cascades, sparkling in the sun. The scene gradually changed its aspect as they descended into the valley. The vegetation became more luxuriant. Shrubs, increasing in number and height, succeeded to the mosses and lichens of the snowy region. Night came suddenly upon them, and confounded all objects in one sombre tint. A thick and chilly mist rose from the valley, through which a torrent rushed

with a hoarse roar. Presently the muleteers halted, and the explorers saw the lights of Marcapata twinkling through the mist.

Owing to the darkness in which they arrived, they saw nothing of the village until the following morning, when on leaving it, after being hospitably entertained by the priest, they noticed that it consisted of the church and a long double line of thatched cottages, the sacred edifice being, in respect of its roof, of similar construction. The slopes of the mountains being wooded, their dark verdure was in strong contrast to the snow-covered ridges beyond, which were pale blue where in shadow, and rose-tinted where they caught the rays of the morning sun. Two torrents fell almost perpendicularly, looking like two threads of silver upon a curtain of dark green velvet. Before resuming their journey, the travellers dismissed the porters who had come from Cuzco, and replaced them with others recruited from the population of Marcapata. These arrangements completed, they proceeded in the direction of the more southerly of the two torrents visible from the village, and after alternately ascending and descending for half an hour, found themselves at its source, revealed by a cloud of steam rising from hot springs, the water of which was shot upward in a score of miniature geysers. The spot had to be approached cautiously, as it was full of cavities, which were more or less concealed by bushes and creepers. The rocks that rose steeply around the springs were of various colours, which seemed due in part to the action of the vapour, and in part to the presence of mineral matter in the water.

The water of these springs flowed in several channels to the edge of a precipice, down which it fell perpendicularly into a deep ravine, which the travellers crossed upon two rude bridges, each formed of the trunk of a single tree. The two torrents were found to unite below, forming the river called by the Indians Ceòni, but which is laid down on old Spanish maps as the Araza. This the porters crossed on the masses of rock which are thickly scattered over the bed of the shallow, though rapid, stream, through which the horse-[illegible]de, and followed their guides into a forest which clothes the

steep sides of a long line of conical hills. Finding no traces of a road on the other side, they followed the course of the stream, and were rewarded by the variety and beauty of the vegetation along its banks. Gigantic trilobed cacti, passion-flowers with elegant foliage and blossoms of various colours, lilies with brilliantly white flowers, fuchsias, alstromerias, aristolochias, were in rich profusion.

Emerging from the forest, they rode over a plain upon which enormous blocks of stone were scattered, as if hurled there by giants in their play, and still saw the long blue ridge of the Andes before them. Their next halt was at a little village called Chile-Chile, consisting of a dozen thatched cottages, picturesquely situated at the foot of wooded hills. Mimosas, the tiny yellow flowers of which emit the penetrative odour of patchouli, here grew abundantly, and in their shade were amaryllises, with purple and white blossoms, and lantanas, with rose-coloured flowers and leaves remarkable for their roughness and their unpleasant smell. Continuing their journey, night surprised them on the march, and they bivouacked in the forest, swinging their hammocks from the lower branches of the trees, and making large fires to scare away the pumas and jaguars likely to be prowling in their vicinity.

They were awakened before morning by the rumbling of thunder, and found that the moon and stars had disappeared behind a canopy of black clouds, from which the lightning flashed almost incessantly, and that the silence of the sleeping forest was broken by the mingled sounds which the storm had evoked from its depths. The wind howled intermittently, as gusts swept through the forest, and seemed to vie at those moments with the rolling thunder; the branches of the trees rustled and cracked, and the hoarse growl of a puma was heard from time to time above the unceasing cries of the affrighted monkeys. The hammocks of the travellers were shaken so much by the wind that they deemed it prudent to leave them, and gather round their fires, which, however, were soon extinguished by a torrent of rain.

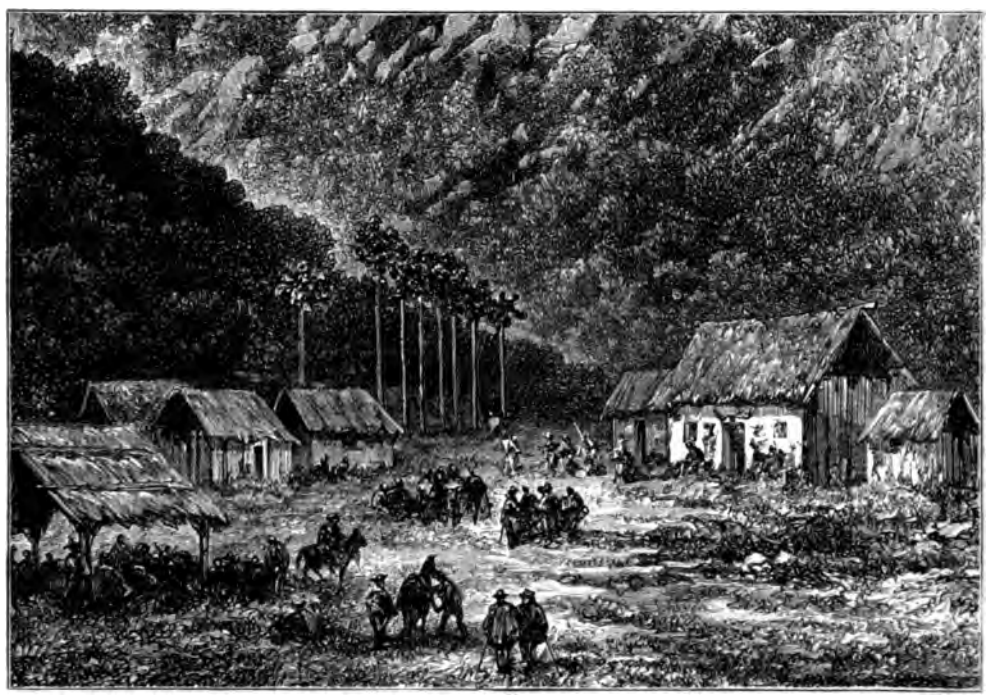
The storm ceased as suddenly as it had begun, and the travellers

resumed their journey, ascending the mountain by a winding path, the slopes on either side of which were clothed with ferns of the most graceful forms and the brightest verdure, mingled with fuchsias, rhexias, and melastomas, gay with their purple and violet blossoms.

CROSSING THE CEÔNI.

From the summit they had an extensive view of the long valley of Marcapata, which spread out before them like a map in relief. Looking towards the east, a sea of verdure stretched towards the blue peaks of the last chain of the Cordilleras. More southward, at a distance of about three leagues, the lofty cone of Capiri rose abruptly from the forest, with a band of white cloud floating athwart its flanks.

Descending into the valley, and pursuing their way through the forest, they crossed the torrent of Piquimachay upon a frail bridge formed of the trunks of two trees. Towards mid-day they came upon an enormous rock of grey schist, in which were three apertures of unequal size, giving access to a cave about ten feet square, to the



VILLAGE OF CHILE-CHILE.

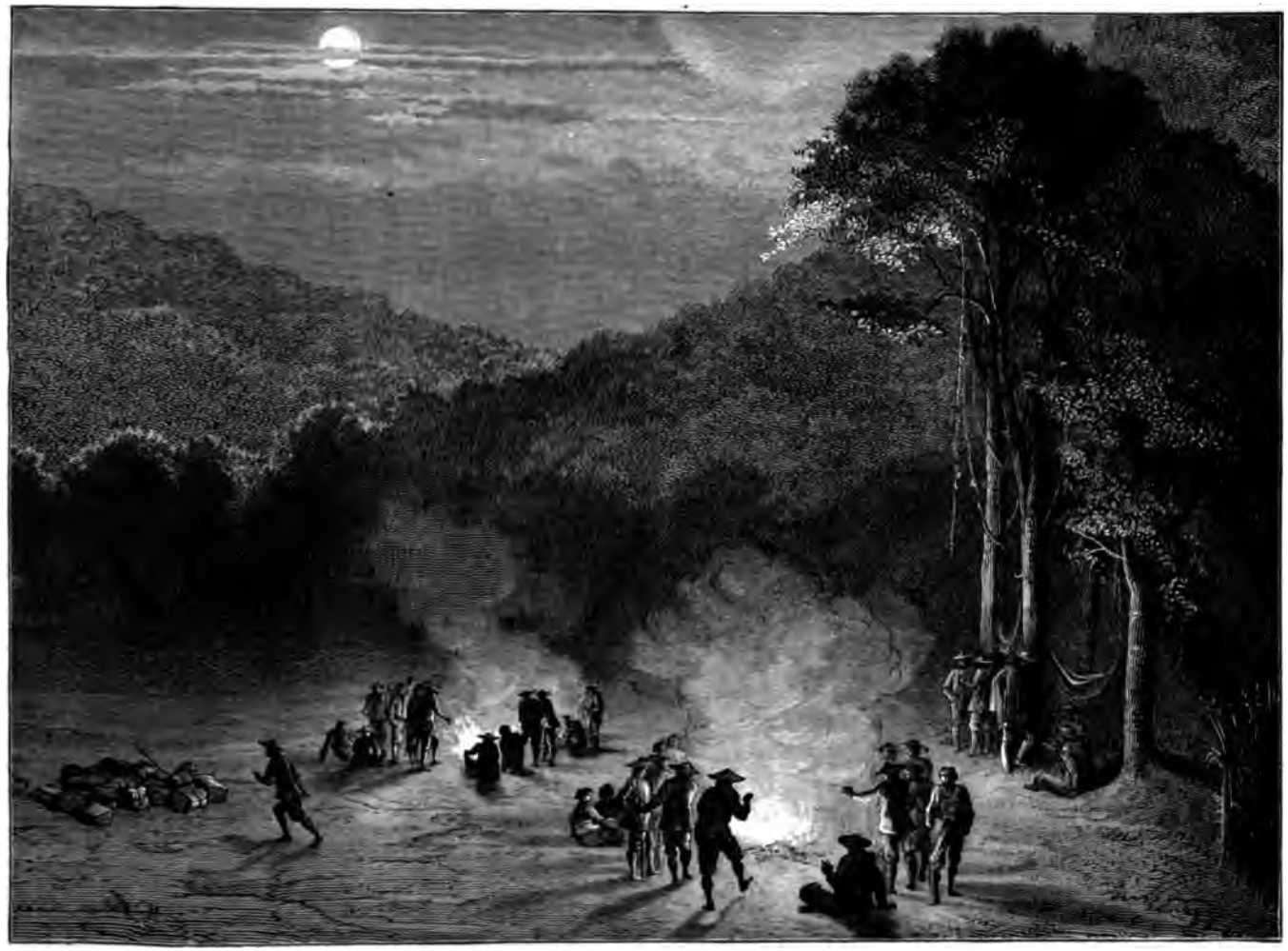
bottom of which the black and white pebbles gave the appearance of a mosaic floor. In the crevices of the sides the humidity of the place favoured the growth of ferns of rare elegance, of the kind known popularly as maiden's hair. Two leagues beyond this spot the travellers reached the Mamabamba, a little feeder of the Ceôni, and crossed it upon a bridge which differed only from that of Piquimachay in being broader, the space between the two trees being covered with branches arranged crosswise.

Passing the night in a deserted house at Hiapchana, about six

miles from the gorge of Capiri, they started next morning for San Pedro, said to be only two leagues distant; but the track was so difficult, being interrupted by rocks, ravines, and torrents, that, after climbing and scrambling for three hours, they were only at the Coyunco, about half way. This stream, rushing between banks twenty feet high, roaring and foaming over its rocky bed, was crossed by the frailest of bridges, in the form of a ladder, the bars of which were green and slippery from damp. The enterprise was hazardous, but the interpreter of the party expressed confidence in the stability of the bridge, and volunteered to be the first to cross. He effected the passage in safety, but he did it on his hands and knees. Encouraged by his success, Marcoy and his friends essayed the passage, and reached the opposite bank without an accident. The Bolivians followed, and five of the native porters had joined them, when the sixth, less careful or more awkward, stumbled, and, falling between two of the bars, hung suspended above the abyss. Frantic with terror, he made signs of distress with his hands, and two of his companions, with some difficulty, effected his rescue.

Beyond this point the road, or rather the route, became, if possible, worse. Steep inclines had to be climbed, and abysses that seemed fathomless crossed upon bridges constructed of the unhewn trunks of trees placed side by side, the latter trying the nerves of the adventurers as much as the former did their muscles. San Pedro was at length reached, and there the party halted for the mid-day rest and meal, the latter furnished by a peccary, which had the misfortune to be encountered in the forest by the interpreter.

Another ladder-like bridge had to be crossed, at a considerable height above a foaming rapid, soon after leaving San Pedro, and, though the interpreter assured them that they had only to fix their eyes on the opposite bank to accomplish the passage in safety, and two of the party set the example of emulating Blondin, the rest crossed upon their hands and knees, happily without an accident. The little river Mendoza, one of a great number of streams flowing into the Araza on its right bank, was crossed on stepping-stones



THE BIVOUAC IN THE FOREST.

just below a fall; and the badness of the road preventing them from reaching the village of Sausipata, they camped in the evening on the little hill of Huaynapata. As the sun went down in a sky of flame, banded with purple, and its departing rays tinted with rose the snows of the Andes, they had a magnificent view from the summit

BRIDGE OVER THE PIQUIMACHAY.

of the hill over the valley of Marcapata, which still presented the aspect of a sea of verdure, with two lofty cones rising in the distance like sister islands.

The Bolivians had until now been unsuccessful in their quest of quinquinas, but at this spot their leader announced the discovery of two specimens, not, however, of the kind that produces quinine, but still he regarded them as a sign that others would soon be found having a commercial as well as a botanical interest. Two other trees of the cinchona tribe were discovered at Sausipata, one of which

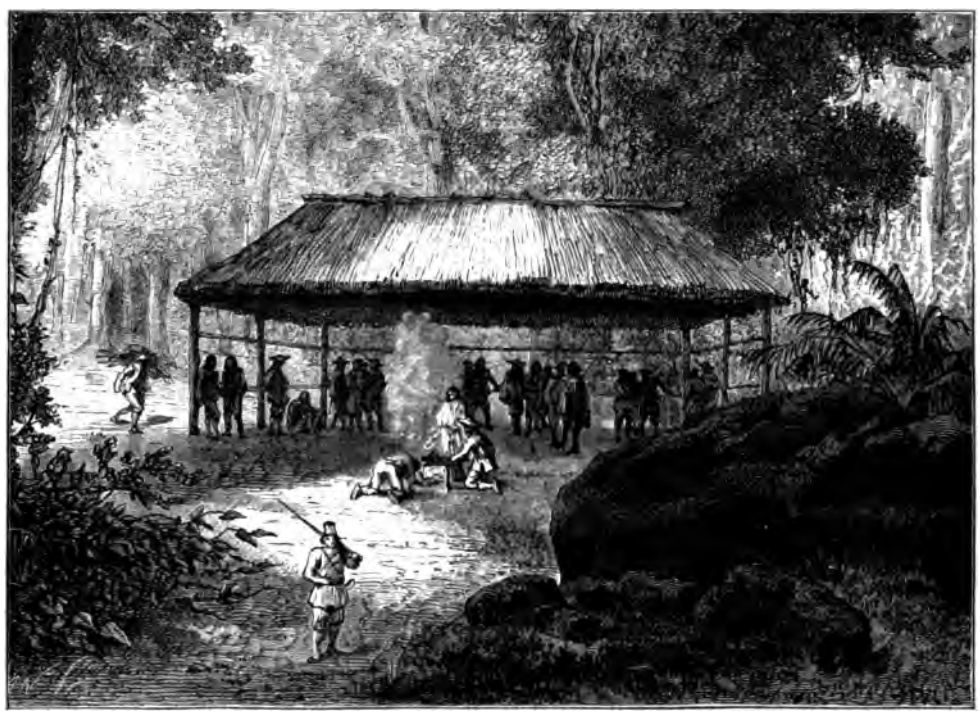
was, in the absence of its flowers, regarded as the true quinquina of commerce; but at this stage the leader of the *cascarilleros* was taken ill, and, insisting upon returning to Cuzco, departed in a litter, carried on the shoulders of his men.

There was much at this spot, however, to interest both the botanist and the entomologist. A group of magnificent tree-ferns was discovered in a swampy part of the forest, and the vivid hues of the masses of calceolarias, celsias, and amorphas, attracted innumerable butterflies of the largest size and richest colours. The most numerously represented species was the *pierides*, of which there were white, yellow, and lilac-hued varieties, and constantly mingling with these were a blue *argus*, a yellow *colias*, fawn-coloured *satyrides*, white and green *vanessas*, and *polyommates* with brown wings, bordered with purple.

The Araza widened during the next stage, and was frequently interrupted by lines of grey rocks, between or over which the water rushed and foamed in a series of formidable rapids. Similar in character were the streams flowing into it, and the Guarapascana had to be crossed by descending a frail ladder to the bottom of the gorge, crossing the foaming torrent on slippery masses of rock, and ascending the opposite bank by another ladder. The Onitubamba was found flowing into the Araza through a natural tunnel, the summit of which had to be reached by a ladder, another serving for the descent to the other side of the stream, which rushed in foam beneath the round arch forming the mouth of the tunnel.

Passing a spot where the calceolarias grew so profusely as to cover the ground with a carpet of bright yellow flowers, they came to a pyramidal heap of stones, surmounted by a wooden cross, which their interpreter told them marked the grave of a German gold-seeker, who, refusing a guide, and depending solely on his compass, had lost his way in the forest, and perished miserably by starvation. They camped that night at Maniri, close to the river, and opposite a group of elegant palms. Three varieties of cinchona were found in the neighbourhood, but were pronounced of no commercial value.

Resuming their journey in the direction of the two cones of Camanti, they had to cut a path through the forest, the foliage of which was so thick that the branches overhead shut out the sunlight while the rope-like trailing plants called lianas were festooned in all directions, and tufts of orchids of varied forms hung suspended from

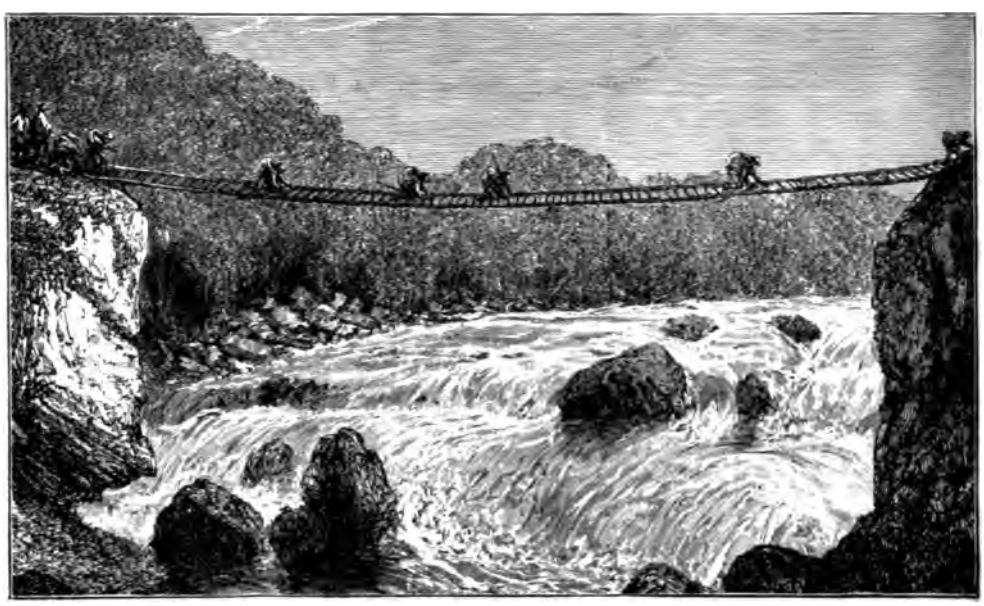


HALT AT SAN PEDRO.

the trees by invisible threads, presenting a most singular appearance. Ascending the steep acclivity of Machu Camanti, they found a complete change in the character of the vegetation as they approached the summit. The palms and tree-ferns of the lower zone were succeeded by myrtles, capparids, and bambusas. On the summit of the mountain they found a small lake, lying calm and blue in the

ing their march under a burning sun, they found passion-

flowers as abundant as elsewhere calceolarias had been, and the fruit was eagerly plucked to quench their thirst. On a rock in the river three otters were seen, watching for fish. The interpreter raised his carbine to fire at them, but at the same instant they plunged into the stream. At sunset they bivouacked above the sandy margin of the river, where the verdure was beautifully diapered with calceolarias,



CROSSING THE BRIDGE OF SAN PEDRO.

most of them having yellow flowers spotted with brown. The Indians of the party, sent to collect fuel, returned with faces expressive of alarm, and made the startling statement that they had fallen upon a camp of some hostile tribe. Deeming it important to ascertain the facts upon which the story was founded, some of the party went to the spot, and found the black ashes of a camp fire, some feathers amongst the gravel, the caudal extremity of a large fish, and some peelings of bananas, all of which seemed to have been lying there for several days.

Next day the forest was still on their right and the river on their

left, the only variation in the scene being furnished by the appearance of a purple-flowering hibiscus and several varieties of œnotheria. An opossum and two beautiful black-backed ducks fell to their guns during the march. At nightfall they came upon some unoccupied Indian huts at a spot where they intended to halt, and as recent footmarks and other indications that they had not long been without tenants were discovered, a consultation was held as to the course to be pursued. It was resolved to bivouac there, and several of the party discharged their guns, to give the Indians, if they were in the vicinity, an idea of the party's numerical strength. The reports had no other effect than to startle the birds, which flew screaming across the river; but the precaution was taken, before the travellers lay down for the night, of posting armed sentries around the little camp.

At daybreak they were startled by hoarse cries from the direction of the river. "*Alerta! los Chunchos!*" cried the sentries, and at that alarm all the party bounded to their feet. Three sepia-coloured men emerged into view, and the travellers stood to their arms. As the dusky strangers made no hostile demonstrations, the interpreter addressed them, and a conversation ensued, from which the travellers learned that their visitors belonged to the Siriniri tribe, which occupies the region between the valleys of Ocongate and Ollachea. For several days they had been aware, through hearing the reports of fire-arms, that white men were in the valley, and curiosity had led them to seek their camp. The village which they inhabited was situated two leagues eastward. Marcoy gave them each a knife, which threw them into contortions of joy. One of them, putting his fingers to his mouth, emitted a long-drawn whistle, which drew from the reeds bordering the river nine men, who leaped and danced as they came forward. Seven women and three dogs followed them from their late concealment among the reeds, but remained in the rear. Marcoy was about to give a knife to each, when the interpreter represented to him that the way was long, the Indians numerous, and cutlery the only money that was current among them. The visitors, seeing him hesitate, redoubled their cries and supplications for *sirutas* (knives). A

dozen little bells, a hand dressing-glass, and a few copper rings were distributed, and the Indians gave them in return some bananas and yucca roots. It was not without some difficulty that the simple-minded savages could be prevented from accompanying the explorers on their route.

At sunset, while the travellers were preparing their bivouac, they were surprised by the appearance from the forest of one of the Siriniris from whom they had parted in the morning. He told the interpreter that he had been chasing a tapir, which, though thrice wounded by his spear, had at length escaped. This story was disbelieved, but the Indian was not at all disconcerted by the doubts of his veracity expressed by the interpreter. Without another word, he saluted the travellers, and withdrew into the forest. Next morning, however, one of the explorers, looking across the river, saw him standing beneath a tree. Three women were sitting near him. Interpreting as an invitation a menacing gesture made by the interpreter, he plunged into the river, and swam across. Immediately undeceived, he nevertheless stayed to share the travellers' breakfast of broiled fish and yucca roots roasted in the embers, after which he made a gesture of adieu, swam the river again, and joined the women, who awaited him on the opposite bank.

The march of that day offered nothing remarkable. The next morning found them on the banks of the Araza, in profound consultation as to the means of crossing its foaming and turbid stream. A deposit of sand upon a group of rocks midway between the banks divided it into two arms, and caused it to rush between them like a torrent. The problem was solved by one of the Bolivians, who cut a large bundle of reeds, tied them together, and, having attached a cord to them, launched them into the river. Then he undressed, sat astride upon the floating bundle, and with the help of a pole strove to reach the rocky islet in the middle, while one of his companions held the free end of the cord. Twice his hazardous enterprise failed, but the third attempt was successful. The cord was then detached from the improvised buoy and made fast to a rock, and by this

contrivance the whole party were, one by one, hauled through the water. The other arm of the river was crossed in the same manner, and the journey was continued to Hautinmio, a village of the Siriniris. This was the farthest point north-eastward which the expedition attained, and on leaving the village and their native friends they

PERUVIAN INDIANS.

turned southward, in which direction the Bolivians in their company led them to expect the trees of which they were in search. That the true quinine-producing quinquinas were to be met with in those valleys had already been proved, and in the forest south of Hautinmio specime[illegible]e again found, but at long intervals. Palms and bam[illegible]he arboreal species most numerously represented.

[illegible]mined, therefore, to cross the river Ollachea, but the [illegible]ng required some consideration. The absence of

porous wood in the forest at the point at which the passage was to be effected prevented the construction of a raft, and the river was much too wide to be crossed by any bridge that they had the means of constructing, and too deep to be forded. In this dilemma, the interpreter suggested that they should cut reeds, and make them into bundles, by means of which they might cross, those who could swim assisting those who could not. This device succeeded, the river was crossed without an accident, and while their clothes were drying in the sun they caught some fine fish resembling salmon, but having copper-coloured scales.

In the neighbourhood of this river they found traces of gold-mining operations, and, in the absence of any indications of a modern date, attributed them to the Spanish conquerors of the country or their descendants, who, during two centuries, are known to have worked with success the gold-bearing strata of these valleys, already renowned in the times of the Incas.

While the travellers were examining these ancient works, the lower branches of the neighbouring trees were observed to be in motion, and as the wind did not suffice to disturb the more exposed tops of the trees, the movement was thought suspicious. They were not kept long in suspense. The foliage was parted, and a large party of Indians—men, women, and children—made their appearance. They wanted knives, and would take no denial, listen to no explanation. Marcoy and Colonel Perez at length, in order to scare them away, presented their rifles, and the interpreter imitated with his mouth the report of a gun, afterwards falling upon the ground as if shot. This bit of pantomime produced the effect desired. The unclad savages disappeared into the forest with a yell and a bound, amidst the uncontrollable laughter of the explorers.

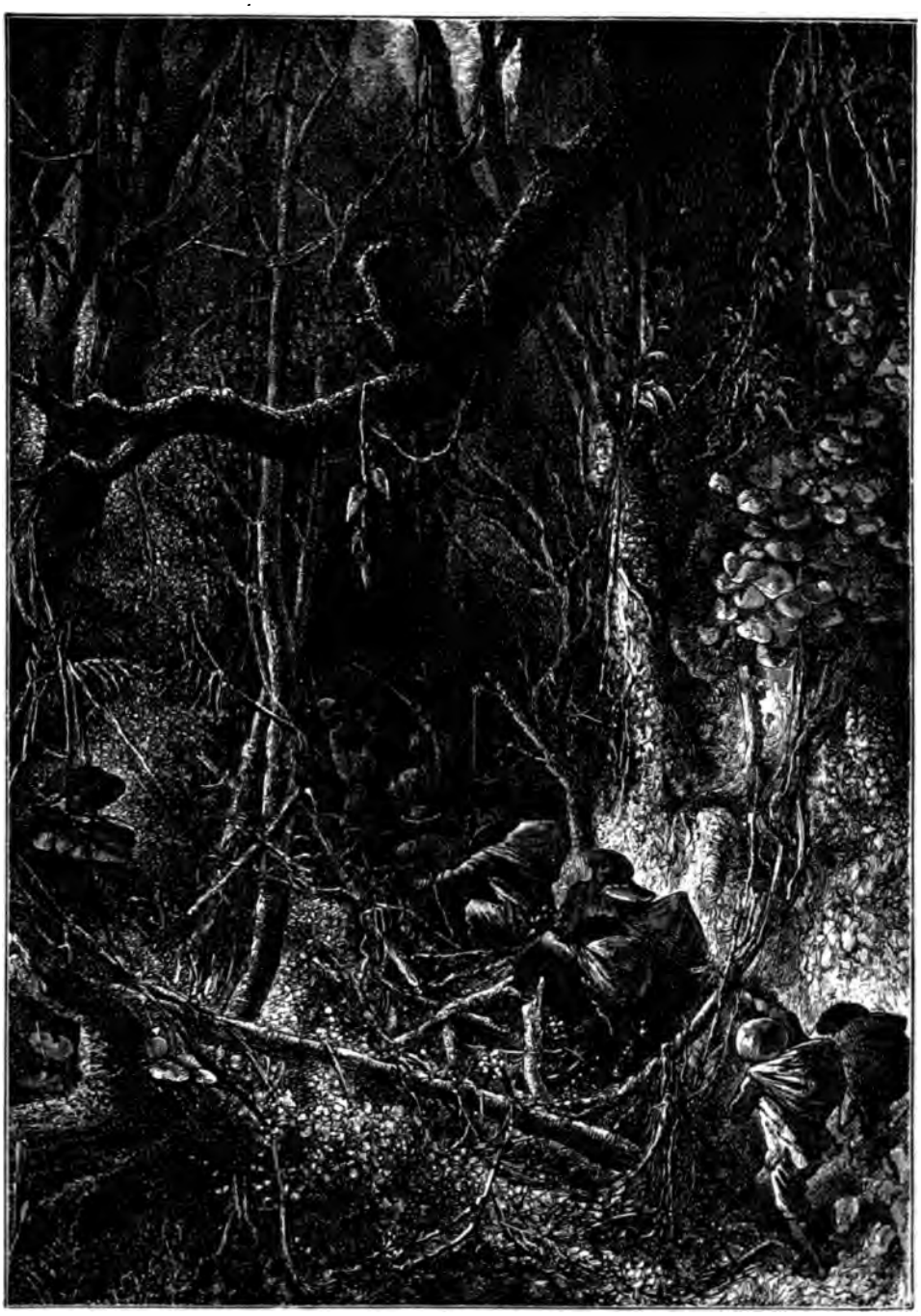
The latter had not proceeded far, however, when they found that the Siriniri men were following them, and they began to think that it might be well to be relieved of their company by a distribution of trifling articles among them. They accordingly halted, and presented their unwelcome acquaintances with an assortment of fish-

hooks, glass beads, brass buttons, and tiny copper bells. The distribution made, the interpreter conveyed the wishes of Marcoy and his party in an address which, though delivered in a mixture of Spanish and two or three Indian languages, seemed to be understood. Their reply was *sirutas*, uttered with every variety of tone and accent. The interpreter assured them that every remaining knife had been left with friends at Hautinmio; and with this assurance they were fain to be content. With a lingering look at the travellers' baggage, they turned about and rejoined their women and children, who had been watching the proceedings behind a screen of foliage.

The explorers immediately struck into the forest in a direction diametrically opposite to the spot at which they had parted from these troublesome natives. Marching in a southerly direction until sunset, they then bivouacked on an open space in the forest, the only incident of the night being a false alarm, caused by the crashing of a tapir through the thick vegetation, which led them to apprehend, for a few minutes, another irruption of the Indians. The alarm was only premature. They had just recommenced their march on the following morning, when a body of Siriniris issued from the forest and ran towards them, displaying parrots, birds'-skins, bags, bows and arrows, which they wished to exchange for knives. A satisfactory barter was made, after some debate, and the Indians, comprehending that their company was not desired, withdrew into the forest.

At their next halt the *cascarilleros* discovered a group of *cinchonas Boliviana*, of which they counted twenty-three, besides eight enormous specimens of *cinchona calisaya*. This happy and unexpected discovery was made the occasion of no small amount of rejoicing, and Colonel Perez declared that it had banished the rheumatic pains from which he had for some days been suffering.

Two days later, when the two lofty cones of Camanti were again in view, they suddenly encountered another body of Indians on emerging from the forest upon an open plain. An attempt to evade them unsuccessful, the explorers marched on, turning a deaf ear to citations of their dusky friends, as the new-comers declared



CUTTING A PATH.

themselves to be while persistently tramping by their side. A halt being called, a discussion ensued between the interpreter and the savages, and some knives and axes were agreed to be bartered for smoked peccary, bananas, and sweet potatoes. The red-skins then withdrew into the forest, where these articles were said to be stored, but returned in an hour without them, and evinced a disposition to disregard the laws of property, which obliged the travellers to repulse them and stand to their arms. The intentions of the savages being evidently hostile, they retreated into the forest, and for an hour continued their course at double-quick. The cries with which the enemy had at first pursued them had then ceased to be heard, and they indulged the hope that the track of their flight had been lost.

After marching for two hours longer in a westerly direction, they emerged upon the banks of the river Ayapata, which there ran between its wooded banks in a series of rapids. Having ascertained that the depth of water was from four to six feet, they sought for a suitable place to essay the passage, which they accomplished in safety by holding each other's hands, and thus forming a chain. The strength of the current and the depth of the river, in the middle, made the passage risky enough to be gravely regarded, and only the arduous efforts of those nearest to the banks prevented those in the centre from being swept away.

In the afternoon they reached one of the wooded hills which form spurs of the Cordilleras, and knives and axes were again called into requisition to cut a way through the interlaced creepers and lianas. In passing through the dense and gloomy forest, an Indian of the party perceived a strange-looking object, which might have been mistaken for a coil of rope, hanging from one of the lower branches of a tree. The interpreter pronounced it to be a large boa constrictor asleep. The porters wished to give the reptile what sailors term a wide berth, but the interpreter declaring the flesh of serpents delicious, and their scaly skins excellent for making sheaths for knives, clubbed the palm which he had been using as a staff, and dealt it a smart blow. The reptile uncoiled its scaly length as it dropped upon the ground,

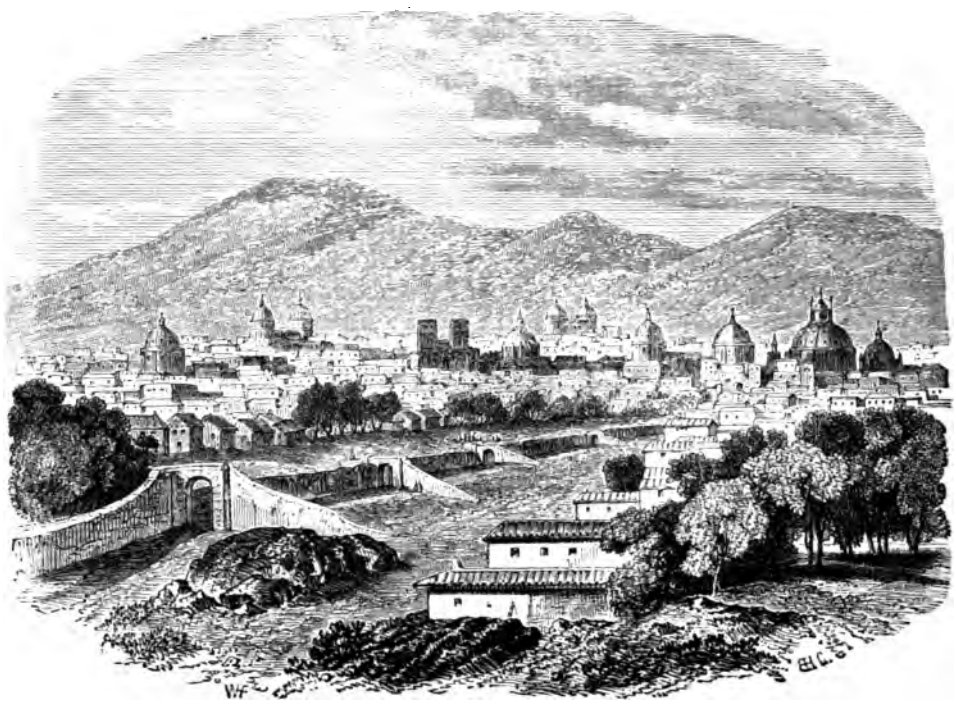
and, rearing itself upon its posterior parts, menaced the interpreter with open jaws and protruded tongue. A rapid succession of heavy blows terminated its existence, however, and enabled the party to test the statements of the victor as to the quality of its flesh and the usefulness of its skin.

Next day, while still marching westward, they were suddenly startled by loud cries, followed by an irruption of Chunchos. Like the Indians who had previously burst upon them in like manner, these savages did not at first evince any hostile intention, but they soon became troublesome enough to induce Marcoy and his friends to hold their rifles in readiness for defence. Negociations were opened, however, and Marcoy, desiring information concerning that part of the country which he believed these red-skinned strangers could give, promised to recompense those who would accompany the expedition. Deliberation upon this proposition resulted in a certain number of the tribe being selected, and the rest retired, with an air of disappointment, into the forest.

Next day, however, they were suddenly assailed by a body of Chunchos, outnumbering them in the proportion of six to one, who fell upon the porters, tore their clothes off their backs, and bore them into the forest, into which they retreated as soon as the pillage was accomplished. Even then these rapacious savages were not satisfied. The bivouac of the explorers was disturbed by a clamour with which previous irruptions had made them familiar, and, springing to their feet, they beheld a double row of grimacing visages. Resistance would have been useless, perhaps an invoking of death; the savages rushed upon them, and seized everything upon which they could lay their hands. Marcoy and his party abandoned the field, and fled headlong into the forest.

In the afternoon they crossed from the right to the left bank of the Ayapata upon the trunk of a tree, and at nightfall, half-dead with fatigue, they again bivouacked in the forest. The unpleasantness of their position was increased by a wet night. Two days afterwards they reached the south side of the Camantis, where they began to

consider themselves free from the danger of Indian attacks. Not yet, however, could they venture to halt for needful rest. Their small supplies of food were almost exhausted, and the goods which they might have bartered for food with any friendly aborigines had been stolen. They were still far from friends, and, even if game

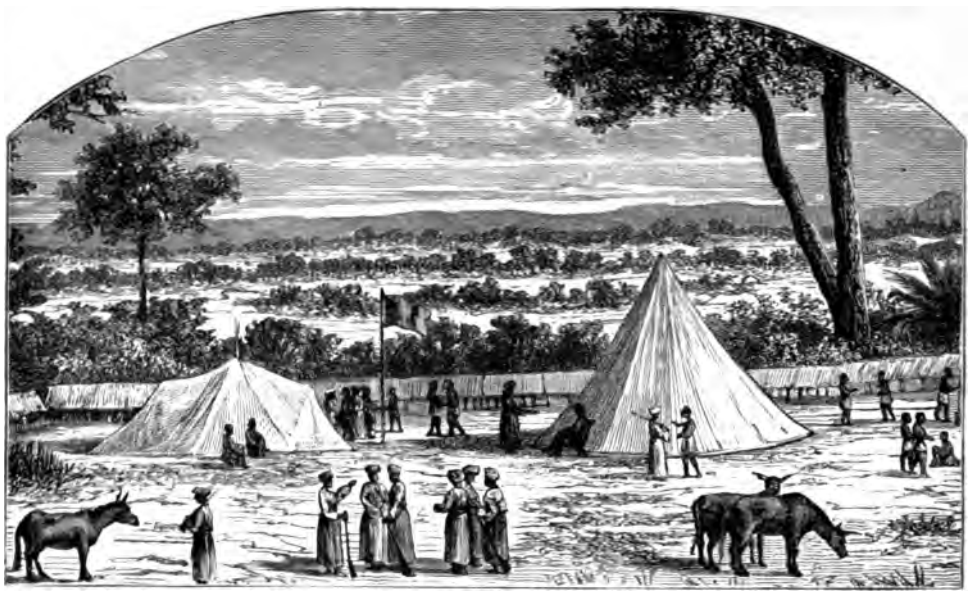


VIEW OF CUZCO.

had been as abundant on the wooded slopes of the Andes as on the grassy plains of Central Africa, they were destitute of ammunition. To add to their discomfort, the rain had rendered the atmosphere so humid that they seemed to be breathing steam, while the rank grass was laden with moisture, and an incessant shower fell upon them from the foliage as they pushed their way through the woods. Sausipata was reached by forced marches, under the impulse of hunger, and on the following day they camped in sight of Marcapata. But with

what different feelings they now beheld the beautiful valley which had afforded them so much pleasure when they passed through it on their outward march! The palms and tree-ferns reared their feathery crowns unadmired; the perfume of the heliotropes, the rich and varied hues of the flowers, the singular forms of the blossoms of various orchids, those floral mimics of the insect world, and the gorgeous butterflies that might be mistaken for them when at rest, attracted not their attention. The depression of spirits induced by hunger and fatigue lessened their perceptiveness of the beauties of nature and their capacity to appreciate them.

At Marcapata they found themselves among friends, who, however, could scarcely recognise in the ill-clad and famished-looking band that trudged into the village so fatigued and depressed the jovial, light-hearted troop that had passed through it from the west, eager to explore the valleys which so few European feet had ever trod, and regardless of dangers and hardships as yet unexperienced. Their most urgent wants were supplied by their former hosts, and food and rest renewed their physical energies, with which they recovered the elasticity of their spirits. Thence to Cuzco their journey was a series of joyous receptions by their former hosts, culminating on their arrival in the City of the Sun in a triumphal entry, the balconies of the "House of Austria" being decorated with flags and green branches, and the streets crowded with people, who welcomed them with joyous shouts.



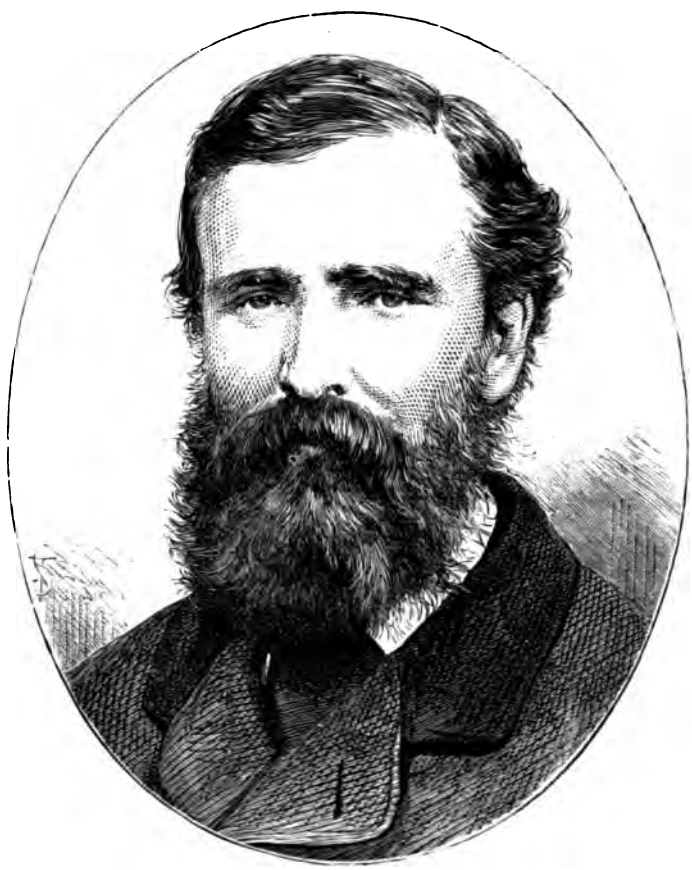
ENCAMPMENT ON THE PLAIN OF MAKATA.

LIEUTENANT CAMERON'S JOURNEY ACROSS AFRICA.

THE latest discoveries of Livingstone and Stanley in Central Africa failed to set at rest the question whether the river Lualaba was the head-water of the Nile or of the Congo. Livingstone, having found the river flowing northward as far as he was able to explore it, arrived at the not unnatural conclusion that he had at last discovered the source of the Nile. Sir Samuel Baker thought that Livingstone must be wrong. "I cannot conceive," he wrote, "that the Lualaba can be included within the Nile basin. I will not presume to assert that the Lualaba is a source of the Congo, as I have a

strong objection to geographical theories unless proved by actual inspection; but, if Livingstone's observations for altitude are correct, it is impossible that the Lualaba can be connected with the Nile."

Of this opinion was Lieutenant Cameron, who argued that only

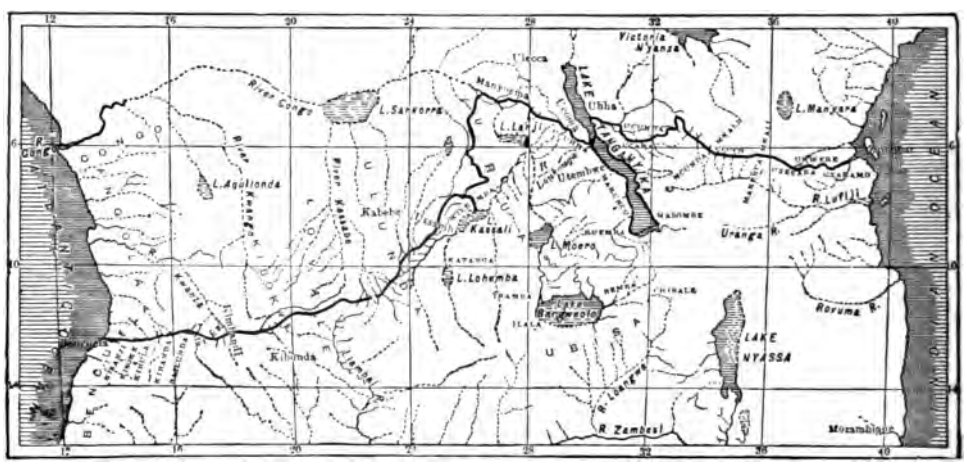


LIEUTENANT CAMERON.

from a stream of such volume as the Lualaba could the Congo obtain the twelve million cubic feet of water which it unceasingly pours every second into the Atlantic. Mr. Stanley was also a believer in the identity of the Lualaba with the Congo, but his second African journey, in which he crossed the continent from sea to sea, left the question unsettled, as he had not explored the region between the

point to which the Lualaba had been traced northward and the point at which he struck the Congo. The Geographical Society, in order to finally settle the question, organised an expedition in 1872, and placed it under Mr. Cameron's command.

Leaving England at the end of November, accompanied by his old friend, Dr. Dillon, also in the naval service, he proceeded to Zanzibar, where he was joined by Lieutenant Murphy. On the day before he left the coast, Robert Moffat, a grandson of the missionary whose



ROUTE OF CAMERON.

daughter had been Livingstone's wife, joined the party, eager to share the risks and the expected laurels of the expedition. "Bombay," whose portrait the reader has seen, was engaged as chief of the baggage service, and a native of Comoro, named Issa, as interpreter.

Cameron and Dillon set out first, leaving Murphy and Moffat to bring up the rear of the caravan; but when the two bodies united at Rehenneko, Murphy was alone, his companion having already fallen a victim to the pestiferous atmosphere of the region bordering the coast. He was buried under a palm-tree at the commencement of the plain of Makata.

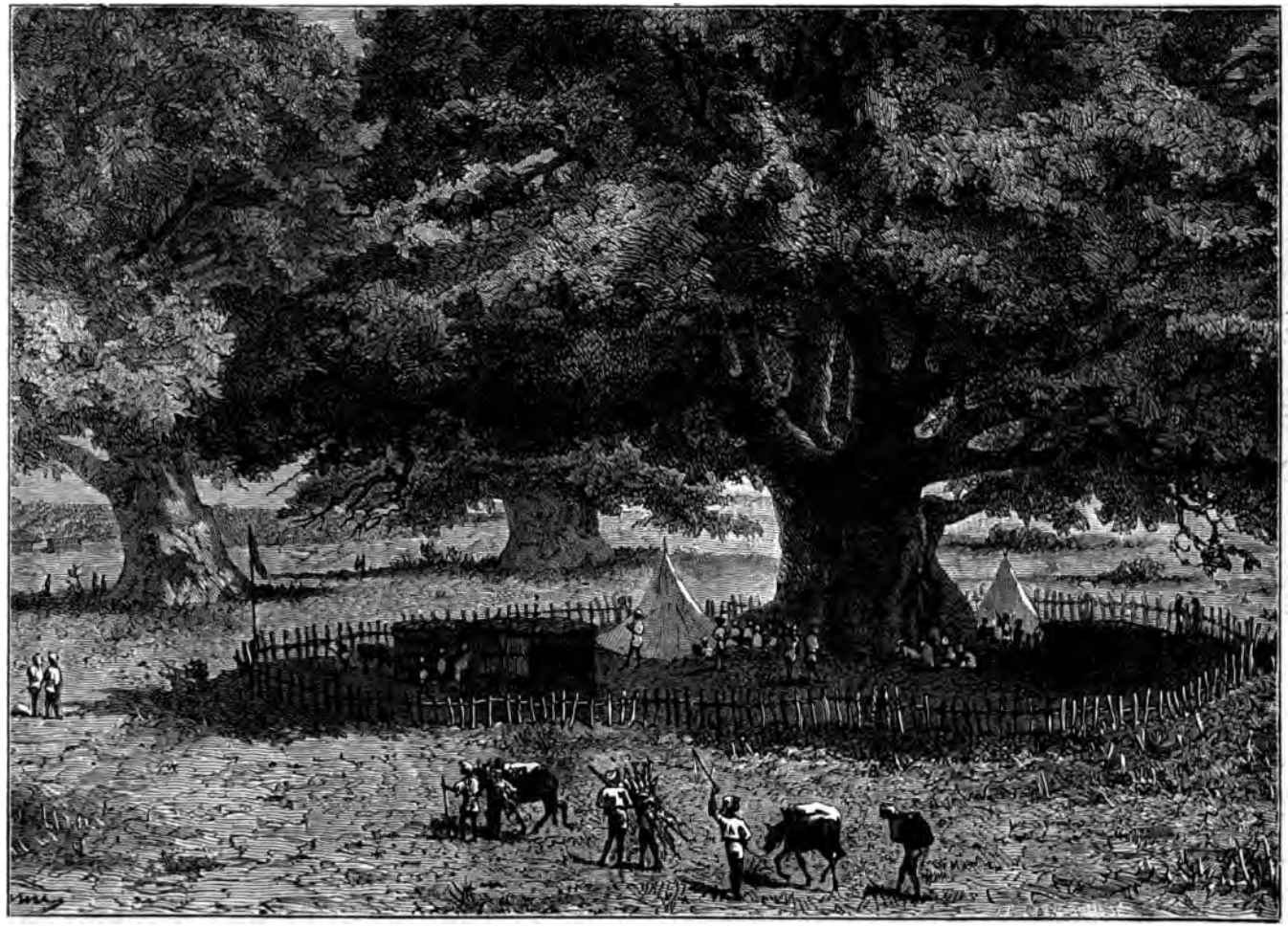
On reaching the village of Mouinyi Ousagara, the accidental or careless discharge of a musket by one of Cameron's escort, by which a

native was killed, provoked all the men of the place to turn out and assail the caravan. Several of the men were seized and imprisoned, and the others ran away, throwing down the stores they were carrying, which were lost. This caused considerable delay, and it

ROCKS AT OUSEKHE.

was only on the 12th of June that Cameron reached the lake of Ougommbo.

Continuing his march westward, in the direction of Tanganika, he found himself, on the 9th of July, on a well-wooded plateau, reached by a steep and abrupt ascent from the level upon which they had previously been travelling. To reach Ousekhe they had to traverse a jungle, which was gradually succeeded by a wilderness of enormous



CAMP UNDER THE FIG-TREE AT KHOKO.

masses of granite towering up amongst the trees. Precipitous hills, piled up in a confused manner and crowned with many pinnacles, bounded the prospect. They pitched their tents in the shadow of one of the immense rocks, the sides of which were almost perpendicular. Their next halt was at Khoko, the most populous place which they had yet reached, and containing many substantial houses, belonging to Bagamoyo people, which gave it a semi-civilised appearance. Here they encamped beneath the far-spreading branches of an enormous fig-tree, one of a group of three equally colossal.

Many families of a wandering tribe, called the Vouahoumba, were settled in the neighbourhood of this town, where, having renounced the roving habits of the tribe, they look after the cattle of the natives, who are occupied more particularly with agriculture. The food of this tribe consists entirely of milk and flesh, the latter devoured in almost a raw state. Their arms are a spear and a short two-edged sword, resembling that of the legionaries of ancient Rome.

On the road to Mdabourou, the last station in the kingdom of Ougogo, one of the porters absconded with his load, which was a serious matter to Cameron, as both the prices of provisions and the tribute demanded by every petty king whose territory they crossed had risen considerably since Captain Burton's journey through the country, and supplies could be obtained only by barter, and tolls paid only in goods. Cameron sent a detachment of his escort in search of the deserter, but the men returned without either the thief or the goods.

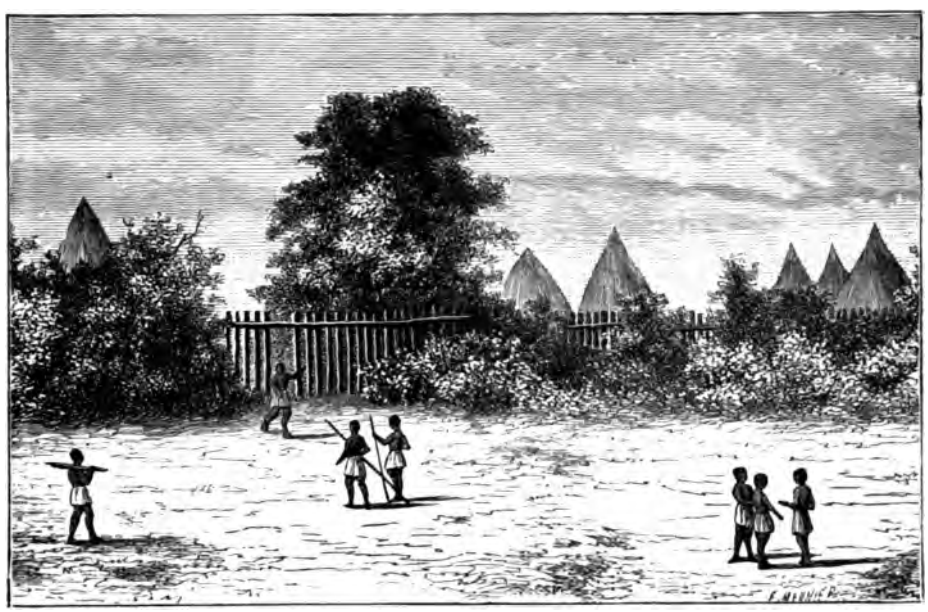
The country now rose rapidly, and their next halt was near two little towns situated in a thick jungle 3,938 feet above the level of the sea. Next day they reached the village of Barourou, situated in a picturesque valley, but had not been a quarter of an hour in the neighbourhood when the gates were closed, and armed men traversed the stockade, as if in expectation of attack. Cameron's soldiers unslung their guns, and the first shot from either side would have brought on a conflict the consequences of which might have been most disastrous. In order to prevent such a misfortune, he ordered his men to hold their hands,

and sent Issa to demand of the chief of the village the cause of the measures taken for its defence. It was then found that one of the native caravan leaders had received from the village a quantity of ivory, for which he was to have paid with gunpowder, but was unable to fulfil his engagement. He acknowledged the debt, and offered cotton goods; but the goods offered were not considered to be equal in value to the ivory he had received. His companions took his part, and sharp and insulting words had envenomed the quarrel; hence the preparations for war. Cameron's undertaking to inquire into the matter, and see justice done, brought about the immediate restoration of peace. Having ascertained that the defaulter had sufficient goods to discharge the debt, he made him pay it; and harmony being thereby restored, festivity reigned in the village until near daybreak.

All the villages met with on this route were stockaded, and every field was surrounded by a deep ditch, or rather trench. Beyond the fields around the villages thick jungle extended to the environs of the next village, and the larger wild animals were there numerous, elephants being observed first, then a rhinoceros, and on the 29th July a zebra, which was shot. Two days after that incident the travellers reached the village of Ourougourou, the chief of which was the best dressed African they had seen since leaving Bagamoyo. He wore an elegant robe of Indian silk, and one of blue and white chequered stuff, with a red border. About his neck was a collar of elephant's hair, artistically entwined with gold thread, and having a marine shell attached to it. Bracelets and armlets of ivory, and rings of copper wire encircling his legs, completed his personal decoration.

At Kouihara they were hospitably received by Seid Ibn Selim, the head of the Arab establishments, who had already had the honour of receiving Livingstone and Stanley. He had also accompanied Burton and Speke to the Victoria and Tanganika Lakes, and retained the most friendly remembrances of his former guests. The Arabs live here in the best houses, well constructed, and surrounded by gardens, orchards, and corn-fields, while their tables are supplied with tea, coffee, sugar, spices, and preserves by the caravans from Zanzibar.

Here Cameron was stricken with fever, and Murphy and Dillon were in turn prostrated by the same malady. It was not until the latter days of October that they were able to resume their journey, and then the body of porters had to be recruited, many of the men having deserted during the illness of their leaders. Before leaving, they had to perform the melancholy duty of receiving the corpse of Livingstone, at which ceremony Seid Ibn Selim and all the notables of the place



A STOCKADED VILLAGE.

assisted. Murphy and Dillon, the latter suffering from inflammation of the bowels, returned to Zanzibar, with the funeral convoy; and Issa accompanied them. The expedition now comprised Cameron, the only European; Bombay, chief of the porters; Bilal, his lieutenant; Asmani, the guide, who had served Livingstone and Stanley in the same capacity; Mabrouki, his inseparable companion; Mohammed Melim, Cameron's valet, interpreter, and tailor; Hamis, his arms-bearer; Jacko, a boy lent by Seid Ibn Selim; Sambo, the cook, who had performed culinary operations aboard an English ship;

Kombo, his assistant; and porters and soldiers to the number of a hundred—that is, on paper, for when the hour of departure arrived twenty of them failed to answer the roll-call. A picket was sent out to seek them, and six were brought back; but in the meantime twenty more had disappeared.

Owing to these desertions, Cameron was obliged to halt at Itoumvi, a large town on the direct route to Ujiji, where a messenger from Murphy brought the sad news of the death of Dr. Dillon. Reducing his baggage in proportion to the diminished number of porters, he resumed his journey on the 20th of November, and reached Kasekerah, a large village surrounded by a stockade, and containing many houses with verandahs, and having the walls covered with rough-cast of various colours, arranged so as to form patterns. Nine men deserted at this place as soon as they had received their rations, and at Kiganda, though Cameron took the precaution of posting sentries at the gate of the village, no fewer than twenty-five were missing next morning. Some shreds of their scanty clothing hanging from the stakes of the stockade showed the manner of their evasion.

A SLAVE.

Cameron was fortunate enough to hire twenty-five men of the

village to go as far as the first station in Uganda, but on arrival there he was unable, notwithstanding the friendly efforts of the chief, to procure others to replace them. He was obliged, therefore, to reduce his personal baggage, which he took into his own charge, and to leave much of his trade goods in the care of the chief. Resuming his journey over an undulating tract of country, he was struck with its resemblance to a well-wooded English park; the antelopes bounding through the glades, and the skulls of a lion and an elephant, which were passed on the route, were all of African colouring which the charming scenery presented.

On the second day's march through this beautiful country, their progress was stopped by an intimation from the chief of Ougara that the road was closed, on account of a native villager having been killed by an Arab, and Ibn Selim having failed to give satisfaction. Vexation and inquietude, combined with the insalubrity of the place to which the expedition was obliged to return, again prostrated its leader with fever. Food was abundant, however, an antelope or a zebra being shot nearly every day. Zebras furnish a large portion of the meat consumed in that part of Africa, the Arabs eating it as readily as the negroes, though they will not touch a morsel of either horse or ass.

Christmas Day was spent very miserably by our unfortunate traveller. Heavy rain deluged the village, and left six inches of water under his tent. The dinner was spoiled; for Sambo upset the soup, a dog stole the fish, and the plum-pudding was not boiled enough. Poor Cameron had to be content with a lean fowl and a pancake of sorgho. The new year opened unpropitiously, the weather being wet, the soil like a sponge, and the way unknown, the direct route having been abandoned for one which presented fewer transport difficulties. The last village of Uganda left behind, they emerged upon a plain that seemed illimitable, and over which large herds of antelopes and buffaloes roamed. They directed their course towards the river Ngombe, and camped on its left bank, where the verdant sward was shaded by gigantic trees, festooned with lianas of the most luxuriant

growth. Many crocodiles were on the sandy margin of the river, and hippopotami lifted up their massive heads amongst the water-lilies that dotted the stream.

Halting at this spot for a day, to recover from the fatigue of previous long marches, Cameron found upon the banks of the river the skeletons of a lion, a buffalo, and a crocodile, to which a remarkable history attached. The buffalo was drinking at the stream when the lion sprung upon him, and in the desperate struggle of the former to shake off his foe, both fell into the water, where they were seized by the crocodile, and dragged into deep water, where all three perished in an inextricable entanglement.

Fresh troubles came when the expedition resumed its march. Rain fell heavily, the track was lost, the people of the villages refused to have any dealings with them. Descending into a wooded valley, through which a stream wound its sinuous way, Cameron was surprised by the whole of his men throwing down their burdens and their arms, and rushing each to the nearest tree, behind the trunks or amidst the boughs of which they hastily took refuge. The cause of this sudden movement was revealed by the appearance of a ferocious-looking buffalo, which, with head lowered and tail erect, dashed past Cameron without perceiving him, and, finding that the objects of his sudden rage had disappeared, trotted into the depths of the jungle.

The day after this encounter, the river Sindi, an important tributary of the Malagarazi, was reached, and crossed upon one of those masses of floating vegetation which are one of the peculiarities of the tropical region of Africa. The next halt was at the village of Ouvinza, which was surrounded by fields of maize, sorgho, sweet potatoes, haricot beans, and tobacco; and here Cameron was hospitably received by the chief, who sent him a goat and some fowls for his own table and meal for his men. The Malagarazi was next crossed in hired boats, and the expedition reached Longohona, where Cameron again suffered an attack of fever, and when able to continue the journey was detained by heavy rain. Here he missed his favourite dog, which, when found, was at the point of death, having been bitten by a venomous serpent.

The faithful animal licked his master's hand, tried to wag his tail, and expired.

On the 18th of February the lake of Tanganika was sighted, and the expedition rested at Kahoueli, from which place the view over the lake is described as splendid. Across its wide waters the mountains of Ougoma were seen, and along its eastern shores the bright

CROSSING THE MALAGARAZI.

verdure contrasted here and there with stretches of yellow sand or steep banks of red gravel. Gulls, divers, and fishing-martins on the wing, pirogues coasting the lake under sail, floating islands of vegetation drifting with the current, gave life to the scene.

Cameron rested here for three weeks, walking about the shores of the beautiful lake, and observing the manners and customs of the natives in the market-place, where women sold meal, vegetables, fruit, and tobacco, and dispensed palm-wine and the light beer of the country from enormous gourds, and the men offered meat, fish, sugar-canes, baskets, spears, and bows. On the 13th of March he sailed

from Kahoueli in a hired canoe, and commenced a coasting voyage round the shores of the lake in a southerly direction. The scenery was very beautiful, and was enlivened by the flight of black and grey gulls, and kingfishers with white and grey plumage, crocodiles basking on the sandy beach, and hippopotami showing their black heads above the blue water, or browsing on the bright green herbage.

ON THE BANKS OF LAKE TANGANIKA.

On the 23rd the little bark was in waters which no white man had ever explored before. The sandy shores were strewn in places with angular masses of flint, and fragments of granite, quartz, and ironstone. Lofty wooded mountains rose steeply, and sparkling cascades tumbled down their declivities. Cameron landed, to visit the village of Kanyori, consisting of a great number of conical huts, surrounded by a stockade composed of trunks of trees, placed horizontally, and further defended by a broad trench, crossed before the gate by a plank bridge. Entering the village, he witnessed a dance

of two men to the music of six drums, and a singer who hummed a kind of recitative.

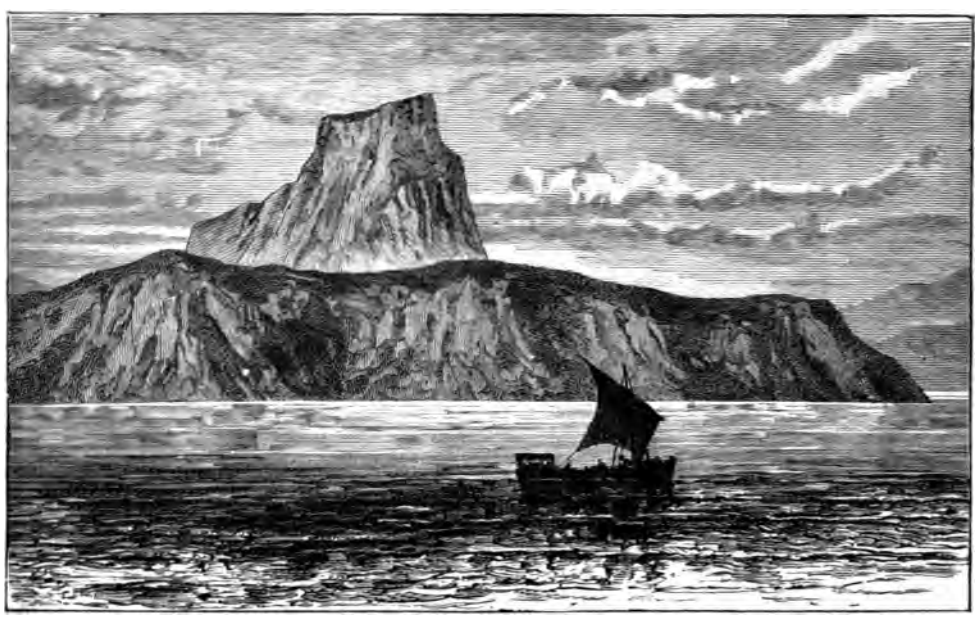
On the 28th the island of Kabogo was passed. It seemed to be well populated and cultivated, and the fertile fields amidst which each house stood, always in the shade of a fig-tree or other giant of the forest, gave the scene a more peaceful character than any the traveller had yet seen. Continuing the voyage, they sailed past rocky banks, pierced with the mouths of caves, and backed by a line of lofty mountains. Hippopotami and crocodiles on the shores, monkeys in the woods, were numerous. To these succeeded nearly perpendicular cliffs of freestone, and black marble veined with white; and beyond these seams of coal were observed. Cameron was unable to obtain a piece of this mineral on the spot, but was afterwards shown a specimen, which was undoubtedly bituminous.

Crossing the southern extremity of the lake, he reached the mouth of the Longonvou, an important river with a strong current, and here an elephant was seen which had evidently been taking its bath at a spot where the luxuriant vegetation approached, and in some places overhung, the blue water of the lake. Cameron loaded his rifle, and commanded his men to lie down and be silent. This injunction proved too much for negro excitability, however, and the elephant, suspecting danger, plunged into the jungle.

Akalonga, the next village reached, was the largest they had yet seen. The chief, an old man with a long white beard, paid the traveller a visit, admired his rifles and revolvers, and received a present of coloured calico in exchange for some complimentary expressions, which seemed nearly all that he had to give. He had no fowls, no eggs, no milk, not even a ripe banana; of sorgho, however, Cameron was able to obtain an ample supply. Cape Rounangona, and the river of the same name, were passed, where the mountains, wooded to their summits, towered to the height of a thousand feet. Here they saw chimpanzees of great size, the first they had encountered.

Mount Maloumbi, a lofty mountain rising precipitously above the range of hills bordering the lake on its western side, and looking like

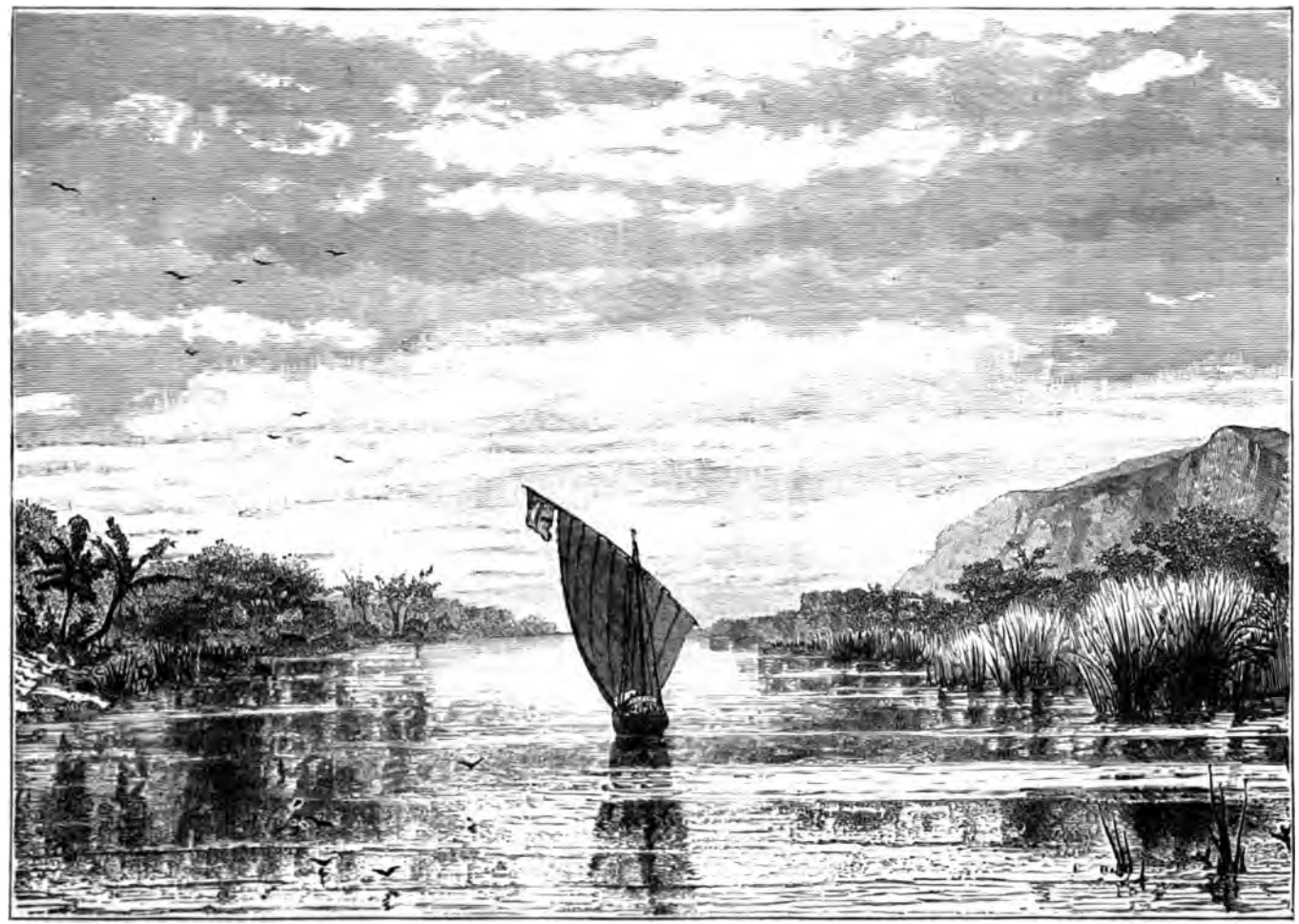
a broken sugar-loaf, was seen in the distance; and then the shore trended to the north-west, and on the 3rd of May the vessel was at the mouth of the Loukuga, which appeared to be about a mile across, but was closed for three-fourths of its width by a sand-bank overgrown with grass. Being told by a neighbouring chief that the river was well known to his people, and that it flowed into the Lualaba,



MOUNT MALOUMBI.

Cameron descended the river to a point at which his progress was barred by an enormous mass of floating vegetation. The river at that point, four or five miles from its mouth, was six hundred yards wide and three fathoms deep.

Baffled by a contrary wind in a second attempt to reach the Lualaba, Cameron crossed the lake and returned to Kahoueli. There he conferred with the Arab traders, who all agreed that the Lualaba and the Congo were the same stream; but he could not ascertain how they had arrived at that conclusion. One of them told him that at the end of forty-five marches *north* there was salt water, to which



ENTRANCE TO THE LOUKUGA.

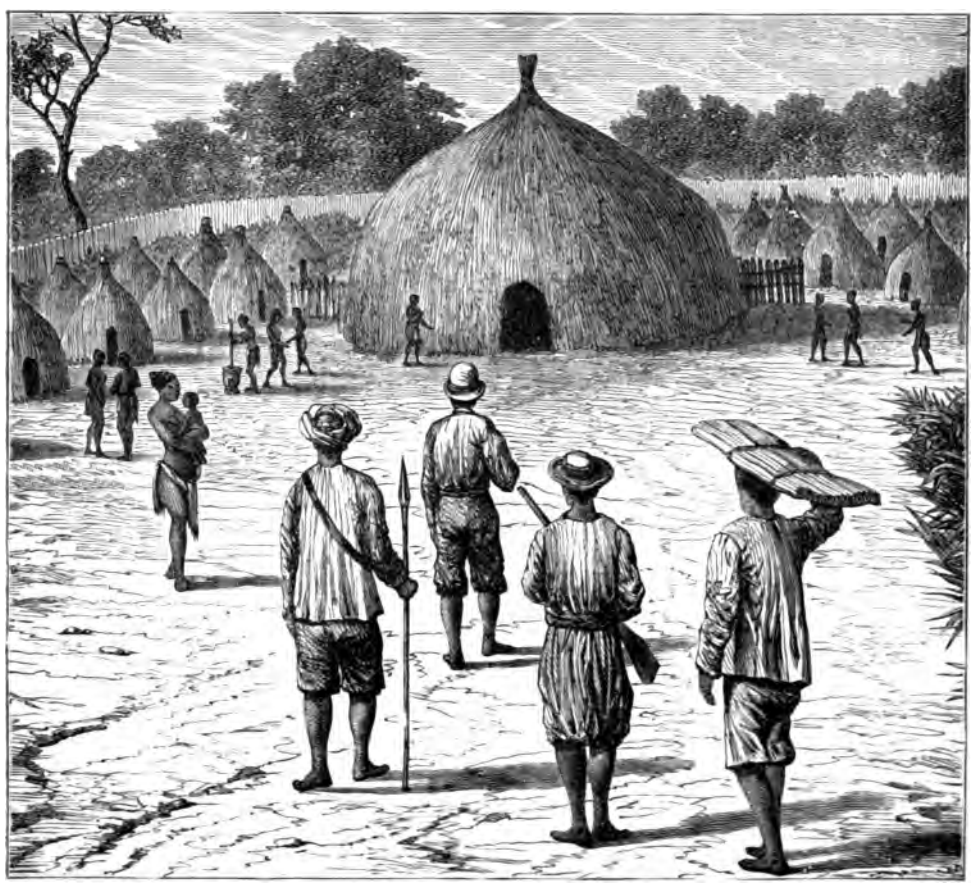
ships came from the sea, and where white men lived in large houses, and did a considerable trade in palm-oil. The course was evidently incorrect, if the Lualaba was the Congo; and Cameron's endeavours to get a map of the route traced by the Arabs were fruitless. They made the attempt, but the points of the compass soon became irremediably confounded, and it was given up in despair.

Cameron resolved, however, to follow Livingstone's course to Manyema, and proceed thence to Nyangwé, where he was assured by Said Mezroui, whom he engaged as a guide, that boats could be hired from the chiefs for the descent of the Congo. Once more, therefore, the lake was crossed by the adventurous traveller; the beautiful country between Tanganika and the mountains of Bimbarra was traversed with all the celerity that was practicable, and on the 3rd of August he sighted the Lualaba, where it was a mile in width and dotted with several low green islets. Numerous canoes were in motion on its turbid water, and flocks of aquatic birds, seeking food on the banks, enlivened the scene; while herds of hippopotami, and here and there a crocodile, suggested the possible dangers of the passage.

Next morning a bargain was made with some fishermen of the islets for the conveyance of the expedition to Nyangwé by water. The swiftness of the current and the beauty of the scenery rendered the passage as agreeable as it was rapid. Owing, however, to the difficulty of obtaining boats for the descent of the Congo, that project was abandoned, after some delay, and Cameron directed his course southward. Traversing an exceedingly fertile country, dotted with magnificent teak, oak, and copal trees, and passing a thick grove of nutmeg trees, with the fruit of which the ground was literally covered, he reached on the 29th the village of a chief named Russouna, and camped near it. Ibn Hamed, an Arab trader, had an establishment a few miles farther south, to which our traveller proceeded after a few days' stay, on each of which he received a visit from the chief and one of his numerous wives, whose curiosity concerning the white man was very great. The natives of this part of the country have the thick lips, without any other characteristic feature of the African race, the

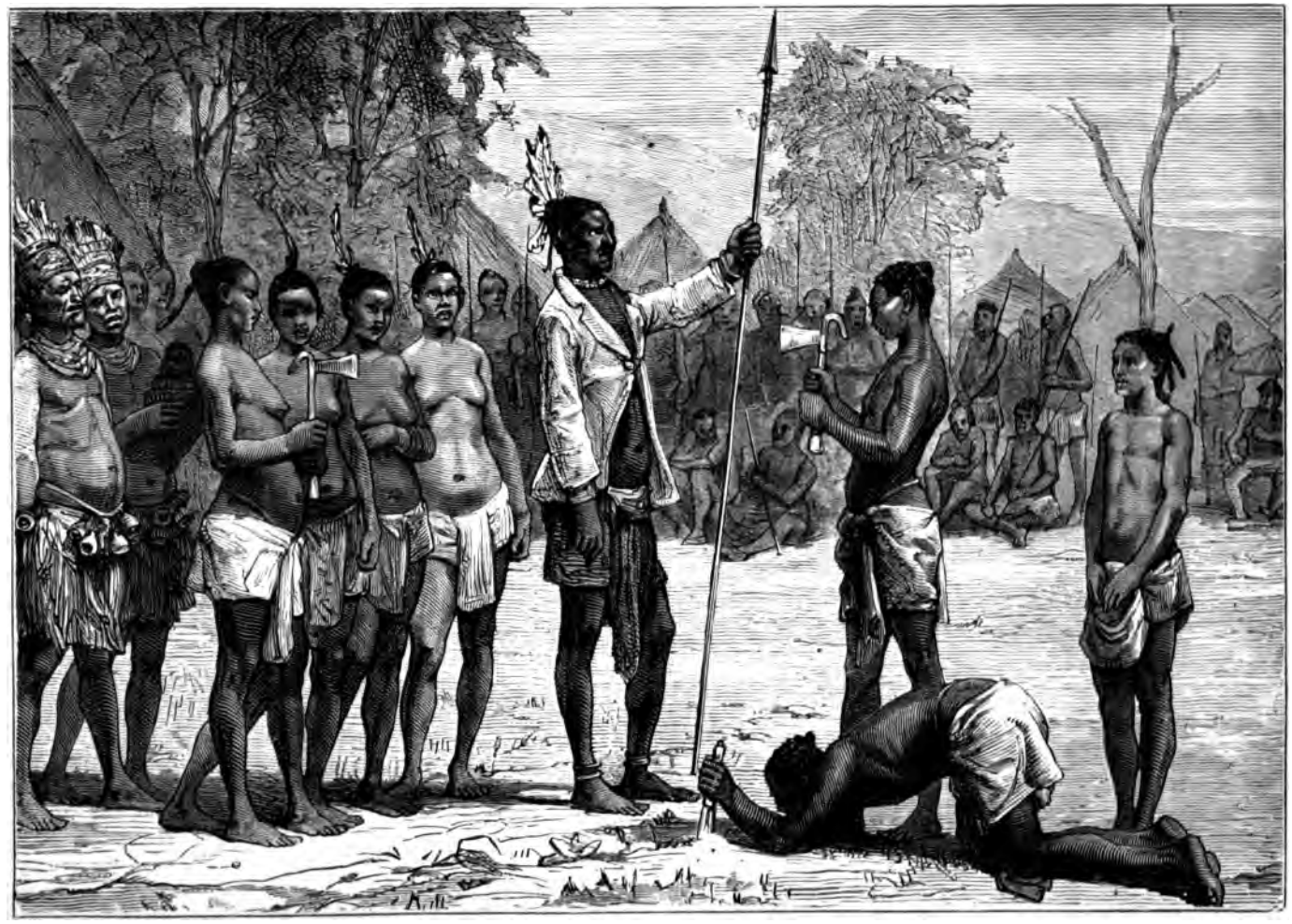
hair being wavy, and their countenances, especially of the women, far from unprepossessing.

Ibn Hamed, whose acquaintance Cameron had made at Nyangwé,



VILLAGE OF KASSONGO.

assigned comfortable quarters to him and his servants, and supplied his table most hospitably. Our traveller also received a friendly visit from Kassongo, the chief of the district, in whose honour Ibn Hamed prepared a gala. A flourish of drums announced the approach of the chief in state, accompanied by his sons and two of his daughters, his brothers and his uncles, and certain functionaries of his primitive



GRAND RECEPTION BY KASSONGO.

court. Half-a-dozen drummers preceded the great man, and thirty or forty spearmen formed his escort. Arrived in the entrance hall of Ibn Hamed's mansion, the procession formed a circle, and Kassongo, who wore a jacket edged with monkey-fur and a yellow petticoat with a red border, danced a jig with his two daughters. Cameron afterwards had a long conversation with him concerning England, and the advantages of commercial intercourse with Central Africa to both countries, and two days afterwards, when he returned the chief's visit, the conversation was renewed.

Provided by Ibn Hamed with three guides who were acquainted with the country to the south, Cameron resumed his journey on the 12th September, traversing a country thickly sprinkled with large villages, in which the houses were well built and formed long streets, bordered on each side with trees. Coal fires were frequently seen on the route, and in some of the villages Cameron observed that the foundry fires were fed with hematite, which the natives procured by digging to the depth of twenty or thirty feet. In the midst of a wide plain they came upon salt-works, the property of Kassongo, and worked by his slaves, whose huts were near the works. Other salt-works were in the vicinity, belonging to a chief who paid Kassongo for the right to work them.

At Kilemba, a village on the banks of a stream shaded by trees, Cameron was surprised to receive a warm handshake from a man of dignified bearing, who accosted him with "Good morning." This was Djumah Mericani, an Arab merchant, who conducted him to his residence—a large well-built house in the centre of the village—and entertained him in a most hospitable manner. On the night of his arrival, Cameron received a message from a trader, named Alvez, from whom, on the following day, he received a visit. He came in great state, sitting in a hammock surmounted by an awning, which was carried by men, to whose girdles little bells were attached, and escorted by men armed with flint-lock muskets, the long barrels of which were bound by a great number of brass rings. Behind these came a boy carrying his master's stool and rifle, the latter of the description

fabricated at Birmingham for the traders on the west coast. Cameron, who had expected to see a white man, was surprised and disappointed when he saw an ugly old negro alight from the hammock. He was dressed in the European manner, and he spoke Portuguese; but he was born, as he told Cameron, at Dondo, on the banks of the Coanza, in Angola, and had been for the last twenty years travelling in the interior, first as an agent of the Portuguese traders on the coast, and afterwards on his own account.

When Cameron had told the old man who he was, and the object of his expedition, it was arranged that the former should continue his journey to the west coast in the company of the latter. Having to remain the guest of the Arab merchant until Alvez was prepared to start for the coast, he made use of the time to observe the manners and customs of the natives. In the train of Alvez was a negro named Coimbra, who united all the vices of Europe with those of Africa, and was the worst of the ruffianly vagabonds with whom the slave-trade causes Africa to be cursed. This fellow forced himself upon Cameron with a claim to receive from him a salary as guide, and then, finding that he had promised Alvez a rifle, demanded a similar present. On Cameron's refusal to recognise his claim, he persecuted him with demands for cartridges, powder, glass beads, and everything else he could think of.

The departure of the caravan of Alvez was delayed for the return of Kassongo from a slave-hunting expedition, and it was not, therefore, until the 10th June, 1875, that Cameron was able to resume his journey. During the first four marches the caravan crossed numerous streams, among which was the Kilouiloui, or Devil's River, which flows through a deep gorge, from which the light is shut out by the trees which overhang the rocky banks, and interlace their branches above the stream. Ferns grow in all the crevices of the rocks, but seen from above all looks black. To this mountainous country succeeded a series of plains, which in the rainy season were extensive swamps, and even at this time were spongy. In the depressed portions of the undulating surface water still lay, and these had to be crossed upon the trunks of fallen trees.

On the 11th of July the Lovoi was reached, and crossed by some upon a structure of stakes used for fishery purposes, while others waded

CAMERON AND COIMBRA.

it. Three miles beyond, the caravan camped near Msoa, and while there one of the sections of the camp occupied by the slaves of Alvez was destroyed by fire, of which casualty some of the unfortunate creatures availed themselves to make their escape in the confusion. Around Msoa

the scenery was beautiful, the country prosperous and well populated, and the villages large, and defended by stockades and trenches, with

THE GORGE OF THE KILOUILOUI RIVER.

counterscarp backed by palisades. Leaving this place, and traversing extensive woods and a large marsh, the caravan came to a large bare plain, upon which not a tree was visible, while the herbage

had recently been burned, to prepare the soil for the next season's grass.

Then came grand forests again; the picturesque valley of the Loukodji was traversed, the river being crossed upon the trunk of a

RECEPTION OF ALVEZ.

tree, and the caravan arrived at length at the residence and barracoon of Senhor Alvez. There was much noise of musketry and drumming when the merchant and his band marched into the court-yard, and negro women and children ran forward joyously to greet husbands and fathers returned from their long and perilous expedition into the interior. Parting here from the not very reputable companions with whom fortune had associated him, Cameron and his own men went on to the estate of Senhor Gonçalvo, at whose residence he was most

hospitably entertained, the amount of comfort, and even refinement, with which his host had found the means of surrounding himself in the wilds of tropical Africa occasioning him no small surprise. The son of Senhor Gonçalvo, and an officer of the Portuguese navy, were of the party at dinner.

On again went the adventurous explorer, encountering more mountains to be crossed, more forests to be threaded, until at length, from the highest ridge that now interposed between the interior and the coast, the traveller's eyes were gladdened with a view of the distant sea. On the following day, as he was descending the last slope towards the village of Catombela, with the British flag waving in the light breeze, he was met by a little Frenchman, who saluted him joyously as the first European who had crossed tropical Africa from east to west. M. Cauchoix, who was a retired officer of the French navy, conducted him to his residence, and made every provision for his comfort. He fell ill, however, almost immediately, and was removed to Benguela for medical treatment. In a few days he became convalescent, and left the town for Loanda, *en route* for England, all the inhabitants turning out to witness his departure, and a display of fireworks being given at night to celebrate the event.

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